

THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

攻殻機動隊

HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

HUMAN ERROR CONTROL PREFERENCES

DATA ENTRY UNIT
#000023.152

MATURE
CONTENT

SHIROW MASAMUNE

攻殻機動隊



THE GHOST IN THE SHELL
HUMAN - ERROR - PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊

S T O R Y A N D A R T B Y
S H I R O W M A S A M U N E

TRANSLATION BY >> FREDERIK L. SCHOOT LETTERING BY >> TOM ORZECOWSKI


KODANSHA
COMICS

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Ghost in the Shell 1.5
KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY AND ART BY Shirow Masamune

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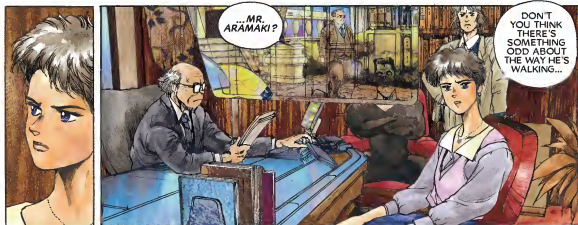
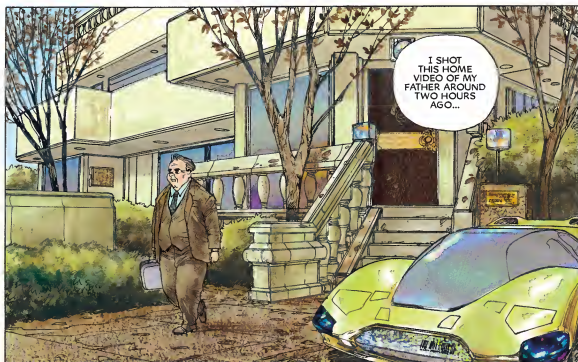
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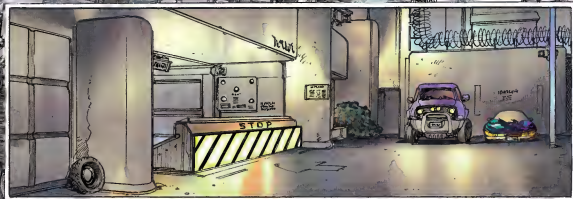
Rilis: full name is *evarcha fabrilis*. *Evarcha* comes from Greek and means "good rule." *Fabrilis* is latin for "workmanlike," etc. For a good reference book, see *Kumo No Gakumei To Wamei* ("Scientific and Japanese Names for Spiders"), published by the University of Kyushu Press.

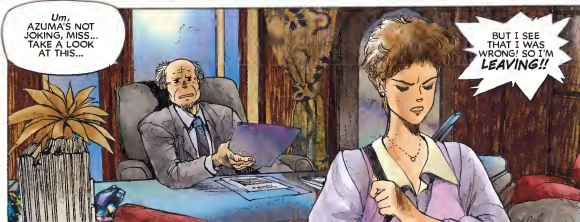


01

FATCAT Part 1

1991

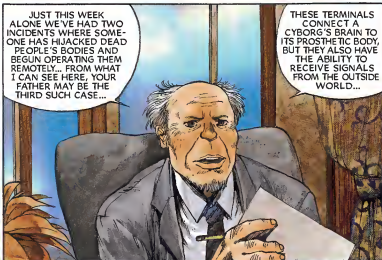






THESE ARE
42 μ MICRO-
MACHINES,
EACH WITH
BIOACTIVE
TERMINALS...

JUST THIS WEEK
ALONE WE'VE HAD TWO
INCIDENTS WHERE SOME-
ONE HAS HIJACKED DEAD
PEOPLE'S BODIES AND
BEGUN OPERATING THEM
REMOTELY... FROM WHAT
I CAN SEE HERE, YOUR
FATHER MAY BE THE
THIRD SUCH CASE...



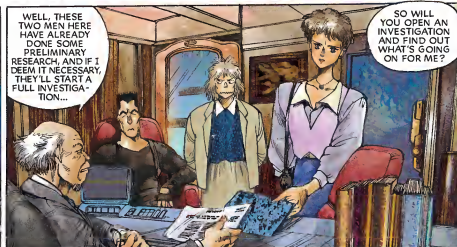
THESE TERMINALS
CONNECT A
CYBORG'S BRAIN TO
ITS PROSTHETIC BODY,
BUT THEY ALSO HAVE
THE ABILITY TO
RECEIVE SIGNALS
FROM THE OUTSIDE
WORLD...



BUT WHILE I'M
AT IT, MISS, LET ME
REMINDE YOU...YOUR
FATHER WAS NOT
A FRIEND OF MINE...
HE WAS JUST AN
ACQUAINTANCE...

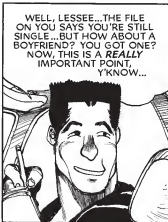
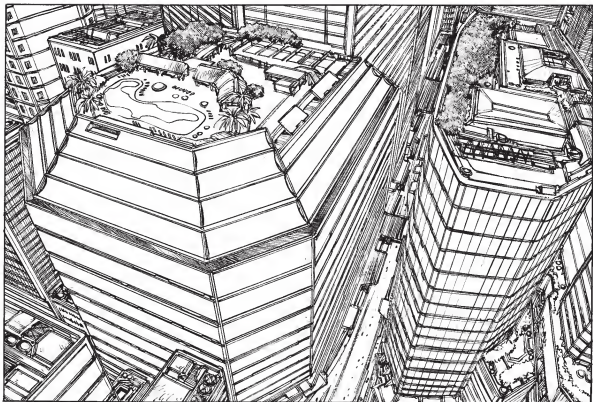


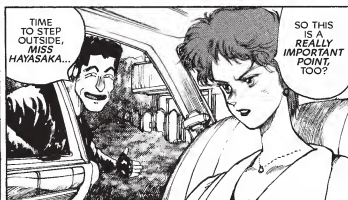
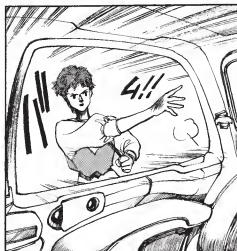
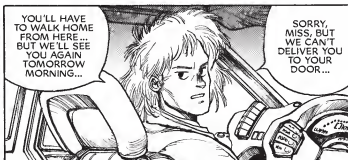
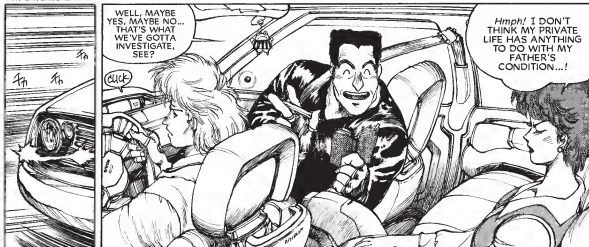
WELL, THESE
TWO MEN HERE
HAVE ALREADY
DONE SOME
PRELIMINARY
RESEARCH, AND IF I
DEEM IT NECESSARY,
THEY'LL START A
FULL INVESTIGA-
TION...



SO WILL
YOU OPEN AN
INVESTIGATION
AND FIND OUT
WHAT'S GOING
ON FOR ME?

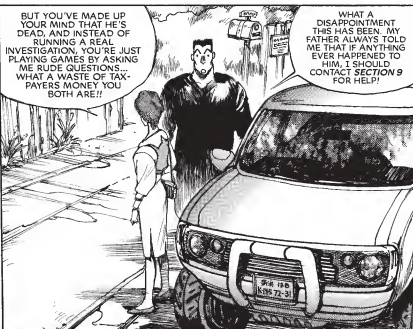
Bioactive: in this case, the micromachines enter an organism and interact with it naturally, actually fusing and functioning with it. Inactive materials, such as titanium or ceramics, do not fuse with biological material and are essentially treated by the body as foreign matter.







BUT YOU'VE MADE UP
YOUR MIND THAT HE'S
DEAD, AND INSTEAD OF
RUNNING A REAL
INVESTIGATION, YOU'RE JUST
PLAYING GAMES BY ASKING
ME RUDE QUESTIONS...
WHAT A WASTE OF TAX-
PAYERS MONEY YOU
BOTH ARE!!



WHAT A
DISAPPOINTMENT
THIS HAS BEEN. MY
FATHER ALWAYS TOLD
ME THAT IF ANYTHING
EVER HAPPENED TO
HIM, I SHOULD
CONTACT SECTION 9
FOR HELP!



Heh
heh...

Hmph...



AN' IF YOUR
OLD MAN'S
NOT DEAD, THEN
SOMEBODY
AWFULLY CLOSE
TO HIM IS, 'CUZ
I SMELLED
ROTTING
FLESH!

HEY,
LISTEN!
I CAN
OUT-SMELL
A DRUG
DOG!



ARAMAKI BELIEVES
IN YOUR OVER-
CONFIDENCE, PAL...
THAT'S WHY HE
ASSIGNED THE TWO
OF US TO THIS CASE...
SO THERE, WE'RE
SQUARE,
hah?



SINCE WHEN
DID YOU GET
TO ACT SO
RIGHTEOUS?

NOW, NOW,
AZUMA...
PISSING OFF THE
YOUNG LADY'S
NOT GONNA
HELP...

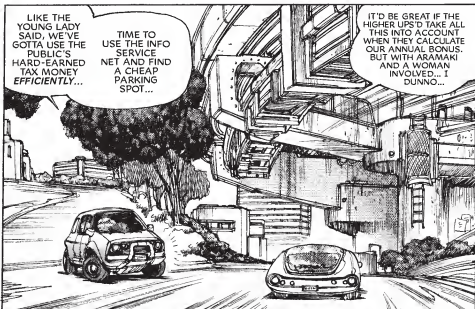
Drug Dogs: specially trained police dogs capable of sniffing out a variety of drugs for their handlers. Drug dogs are not art objects made in the shape of dogs, then stuffed with drugs and used for smuggling. Nor are they dogs that are stoned silly from doing too many drugs...



LIKE THE YOUNG LADY SAID, WE'VE GOTTA USE THE PUBLIC'S HARD-EARNED TAX MONEY EFFICIENTLY...

TIME TO USE THE INFO SERVICE NET AND FIND A CHEAP PARKING SPOT...

IT'D BE GREAT IF THE HIGHER UPS'D TAKE ALL THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THEY CALCULATE OUR ANNUAL BONUS. BUT WITH ARANAKI AND A WOMAN INVOLVED... I DUNNO...



BUT DO YA REALLY HAVE TO GO THAT FAR?

BOY, SHE WAS GOOD FOR A FIRST-TIMER, HEY? DONE IN TRUE TEXTBOOK STYLE BY A FORMER COP, I'D SAY!



THE WIRETAP HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED... TWO BACKUP MEN WILL BE SENT OUT FOR YOU AT 20:15 HOURS... WILL SEND BANK ACCOUNT INFO TEN MINUTES LATER... OVER...

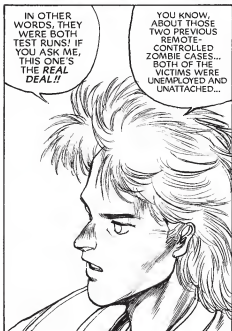


TERMINAL T--TOGUSA-- TO CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT! WHAT'S THE STATUS OF MY REQUEST?

*FX: BEEP BEEP BEEP

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WERE BOTH TEST RUNS! IF YOU ASK ME, THIS ONE'S THE REAL DEAL!!

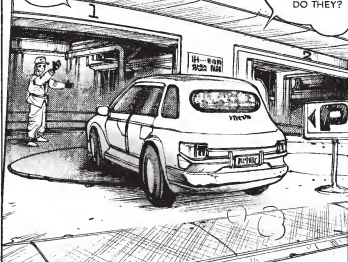
YOU KNOW, ABOUT THOSE TWO PREVIOUS REMOTE-CONTROLLED ZOMBIE CASES... BOTH OF THE VICTIMS WERE UNEMPLOYED AND UNATTACHED...



WELL...

PARKING

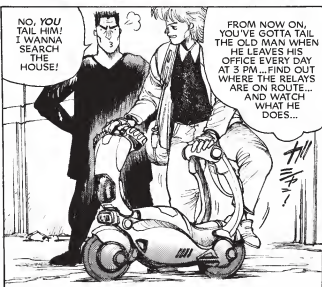
THE TEXTBOOKS COPS USE DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WIRETAPS, DO THEY?



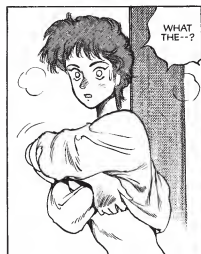
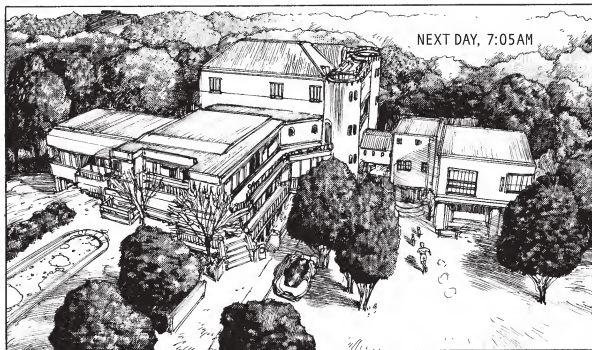
The tray-type of robotic parking shown in the panel above isn't so common in Japan anymore. Instead, auto-parking systems tend to rotate the cargo horizontally. This saves time and trouble, since it's no longer necessary to back out of the facility.



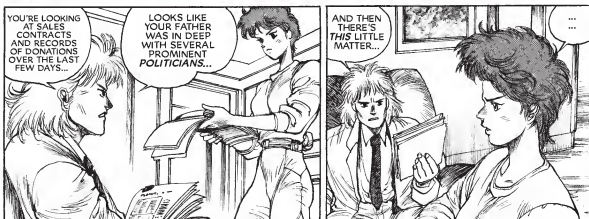
Heh heh...
I'LL HAVE
A TUNA
SAND-
WICH...

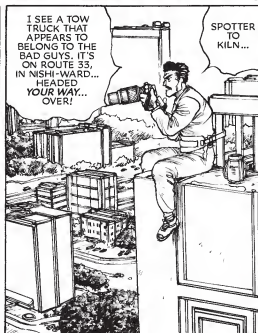


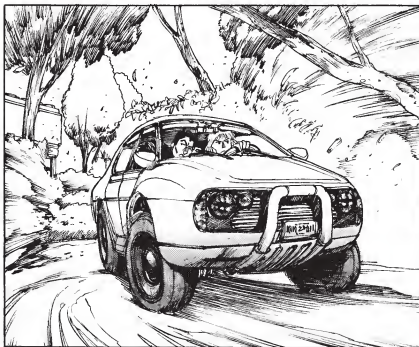
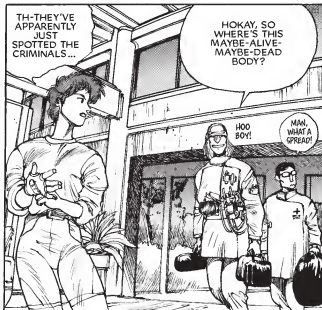
Sandwiches: In situations like this, sandwiches are an extremely convenient food, especially because they can be eaten with one hand. The sandwiches Togusa bought are made with whole grain dark bread, but actually, as I understand it, white bread wouldn't degrade his camouflage capability as long as he stays in the shadows (he could just hide the sandwich with one hand, of course!). I drew dark bread sandwiches just in case... Of course, the real problem in terms of surveillance work is not so much eating the sandwich, but the noise and smell generated when later expelling it... (And in really big houses, it's the scary dogs you have to worry about...)



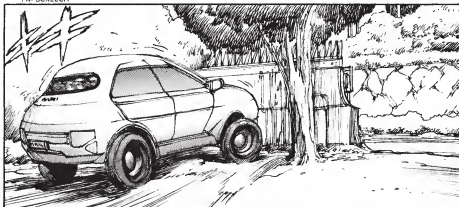




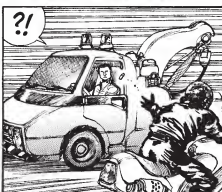
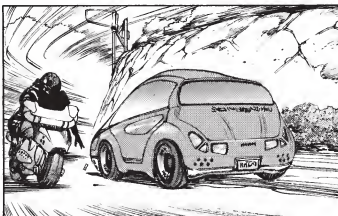
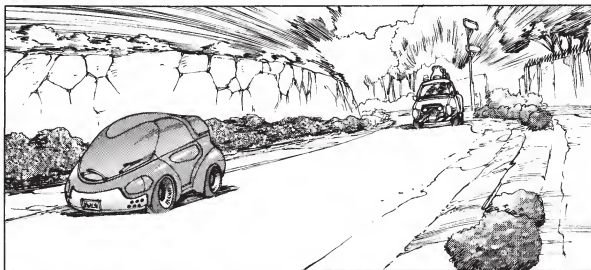


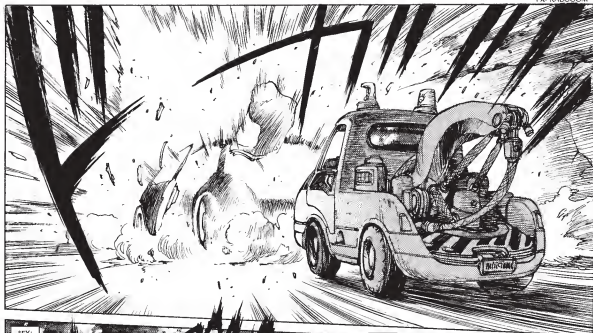


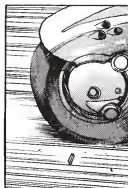
*FX: SCREECH



Togusa and Azuma are using a fairly tall car here because it's better suited for tailing and surveillance and also harder to see into. Choice of vehicle does not necessarily reflect the personal preference of the characters or the artist...



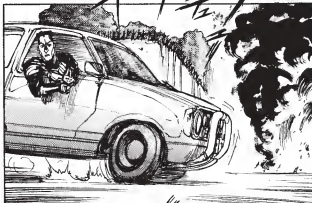




*FX: BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM



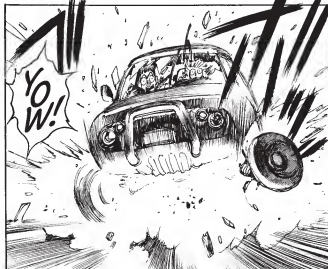
*FX: SCREECH



*FX: SCREECH



*FX: SCREECH VROOM



*FX: BAWOMP

*FX: FLICK



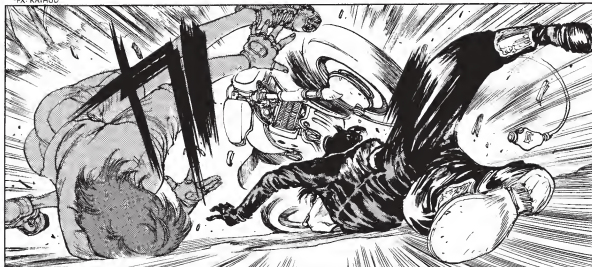
*FX: TROMP TROMP TROMP



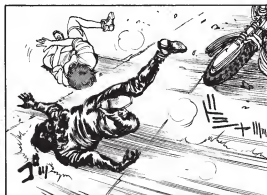
*FX: KVAM!



*FX: KATHUD



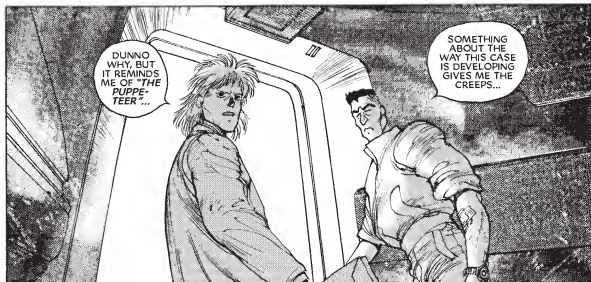
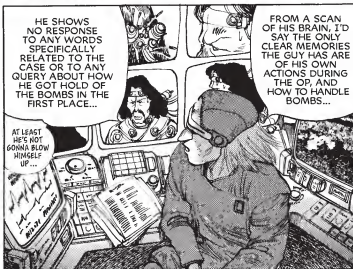
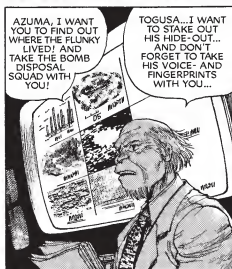
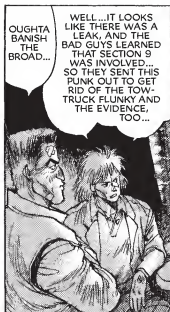
*FX: SCRUNCH

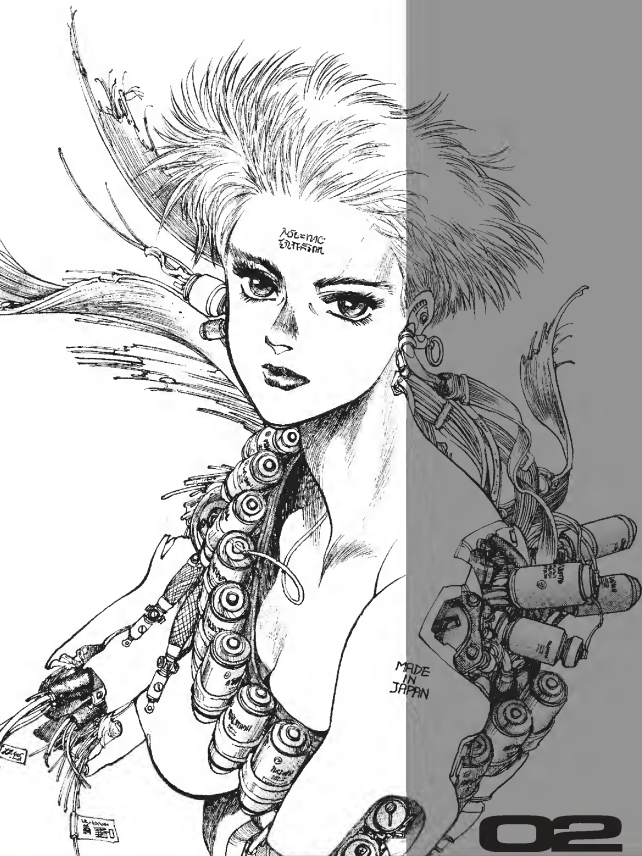


*FX: THUNK

*FX: SCRUNCH







02

FATCAT Part 2

1991



SHE'S NOT YOUR TYPICAL CUTE-GIRL CHARACTER...

ONE DAY, THE WELL-BRED DAUGHTER OF MR. HAYASAKA-- A WEALTHY MAN WHO LIKES TO DABBLE IN POLITICS-- VISITS PUBLIC SECURITY'S SECTION 9 ...

LEAVE ME ALONE!

*sign: PUBLIC SECURITY, SECTION 9



YAY! WE FOUND A SIGNAL RELAY THAT CONTROLS HAYA-SAKA!!

MEANWHILE, ASUMA GOES TO WORK ON THE ALARM SYSTEM AT THE HAYASAKA ESTATE...



*FX: GRRRRR ARI! ARI!



HEY, LUNKHEAD! WHADYA THINK YOU'RE DOING, GETTING ON A TRAIN WITH A MOTORBIKE, HEY?

UM, S'CUSE...

TOGUSA IS ASSIGNED TO TAIL MR. HAYASAKA...

AND SO...

...AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THE BOMBER IS BEING MANIPULATED BY SOMEONE ELSE...

THE FLUNKY WORKING FOR THE BAD GUYS IS CHARR'D TO A CRISP...

UH, WHO AM I?



EVERYTHING GOES FINE UNTIL THEY TRY TO DRAW THE BAD GUYS INTO THE OPEN BY MAKING IT LOOK LIKE THE RELAY'S BROKEN...



TOGUSA IS ASSIGNED TO COVER THE BOMBER'S ADDRESS...

...WHILE AZUMA HEADS FOR THE LATE FLUNKY'S HIDEOUT...



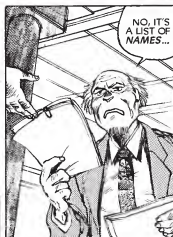
MR. HAYASAKA'S LIMP BODY, MINUS THE CONTROL SIGNALS IT NEEDS TO KEEP MOVING...

SO THAT LEAVES...

...A LIST OF POLITICIANS TO WHOM MR. HAYASAKA HAD BEEN WANTONLY, ALMOST SELF-DESTRUCTIVELY, SENDING MONEY...

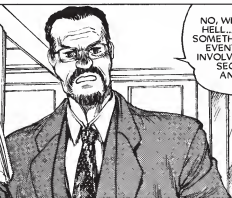
AND...







THERE ARE FOUR NAMES MISSING HERE, INCLUDING MINE... BUT THIS OTHERWISE IS A LIST OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL COUNCIL THAT'S EVALUATING WHETHER OR NOT EACH PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS KEYS FOR PANDORA...



NO, WHAT THE HELL... THIS IS SOMETHING THAT EVENTUALLY INVOLVES YOUR SECTION ANYWAY...



SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?

THE COUNCIL MEMBERS IN FAVOR OF GRANTING ACCESS THINK EACH PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS THE INFORMATION IN PANDORA, BOTH FOR TRADE AND BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NETWORKS BEING USED BY OTHER COUNTRIES...



...AND THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION ON NEARLY EVERYTHING SECTION 9 AND MY DEPARTMENT'RE UP TO...

AS YOU KNOW, TONS OF MILITARY AND PUBLIC SECURITY SECRETS ARE STORED IN PANDORA...



LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY... SOMEBODY'S BEEN TOSSING A LOT OF MONEY AROUND...



GOOD THING I MADE SOME CONNECTIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE...

THERE'S A MAN AT THE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY NAMED TAKAOKA...



SO WHERE DID THIS CRAZY IDEA OF SHARING ACCESS KEYS TO PANDORA COME FROM, ANYWAY...?



DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL HARBOR HOPES OF BEING PROMOTED SOMEDAY, DO YOU?

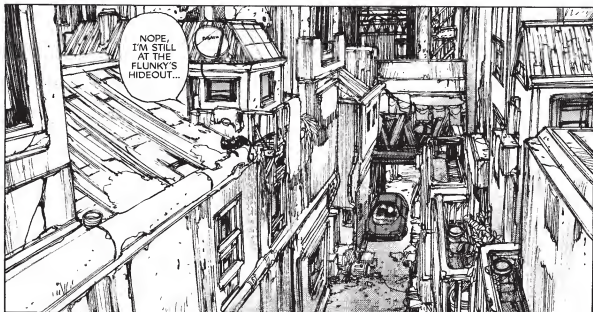
WHAT?!
LISTEN, IF THAT'S THE CASE WE CAN'T EVEN AFFORD TO BE SEEN TOGETHER, ARAMAKI! THEY'LL SAY THIS IS A PUT-UP BLACK OP!!



THIS EXPLAINS WHY THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S WAY OF SELECTING ITS MEMBERS, AND THE PROCEEDINGS THEMSELVES...

SHIT...

The Institute of Technology is affiliated with the government's Ministry of Trade and Industry. The council in question is comprised of representatives of all the related government agencies, and its members are supposed to resolve their differences through discussion and compromise. What the official here is referring to as "weird" is the fact that certain opinions in the group seem to pass without debate. The minutes of the council meetings are never made public, of course.



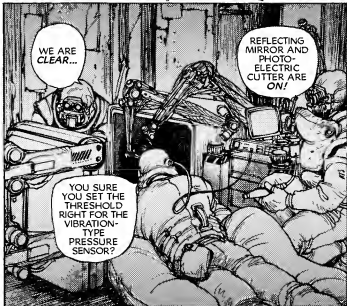
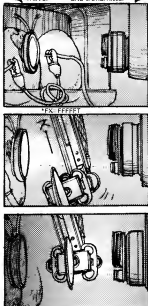
This ultra-precise, liquid-nitrogen-cooled cutting tool is designed to suck up any particulate matter that it generates, and also to be vibration-free. In other words, it is designed to not activate any vibration or motion sensors built into the bomb.

*FX: SNIP

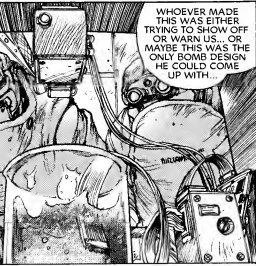
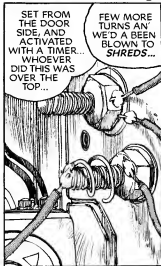
reflecting mirror

light sensor and transmitter

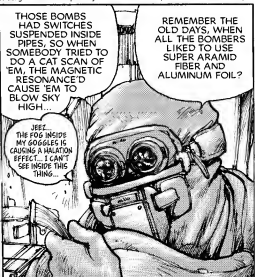
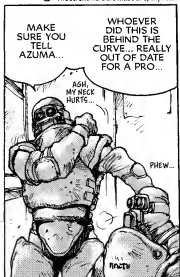
I've abbreviated the drawing of the circuit tester...



Try this from the light sensor side and it's "kaboom!"

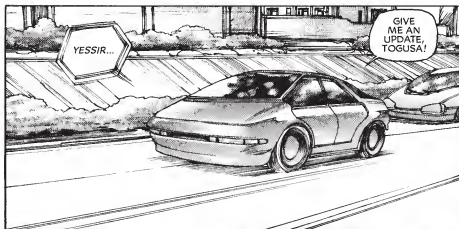


The screws here are made of epoxy resin insulating material. The top one's just to test the bomb squad's luck. It's not a dummy and still has to be cleared to get the rear door open...



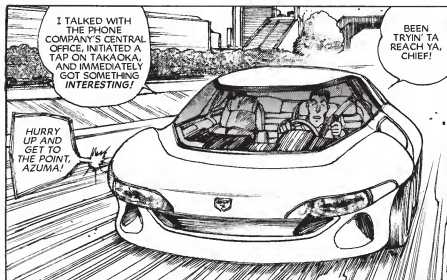
Ref: the warning referred to in panel 6. If the goal had been to kill the flunky, all it would take is for something far more primitive to be connected to the door of the apartment or to one of the many consumer appliances in the room. If the goal were to blow up the police along with the whole room, all it would take is a lookout nearby to spot them entering. The lookout could then light it to safety a kick or two away by car, and send a password or simple execution string back to the room by radio, or set the system to blow when the phone rings (then place a call and wait for someone to answer, etc.). In other words, there would have been lots of easier ways to get the job done...

For safety and liability reasons, author has suppressed use of some terminology here... —the editors

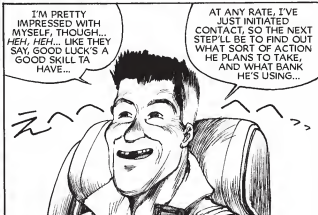


*FX: BEEP BEEP BEEP



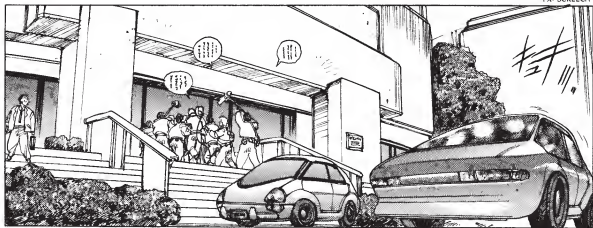


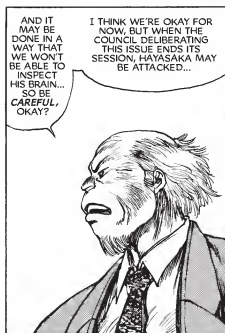
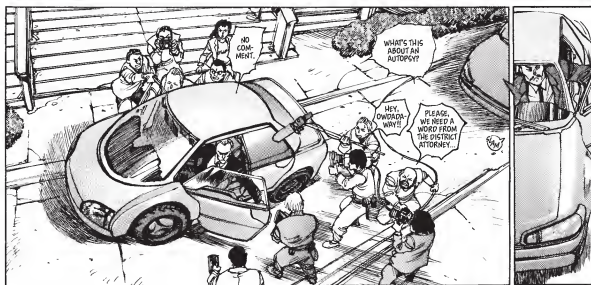
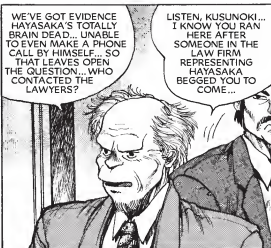
*screen: AZUMA CODE RV76A

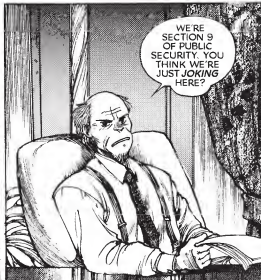
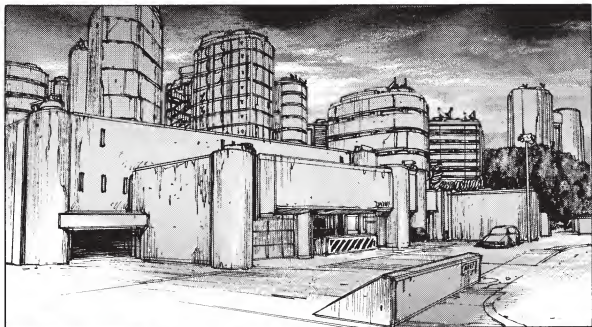


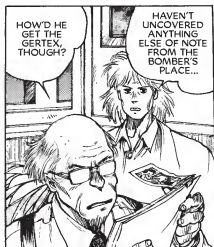
*FX: BEEP

*FX: HEH HEH HEH





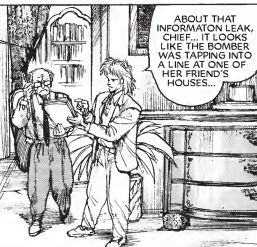




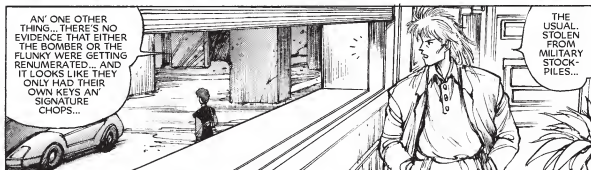
HOW'D HE
GET THE
GERTEX,
THOUGH?

HAVEN'T
UNCOVERED
ANYTHING
ELSE OF NOTE
FROM THE
BOMBER'S
PLACE...

I CHECKED THE
PHONE LOG TO BE
SURE, AND SHE
MADE LONG CALLS
THE DAY BEFORE
SHE VISITED
SECTION 9
AND ALSO
THAT NIGHT,
TOO...



ABOUT THAT
INFORMATION LEAK,
CHIEF... IT LOOKS
LIKE THE BOMBER
WAS TAPPING INTO
A LINE AT ONE OF
HER FRIEND'S
HOUSES...



AN' ONE OTHER
THING... THERE'S NO
EVIDENCE THAT EITHER
THE BOMBER OR THE
FLUNKY WERE GETTING
RENUMERATED... AND
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY
ONLY HAD THEIR
OWN KEYS AN'
SIGNATURE
CHOPS...

THE
USUAL, STOLEN
FROM
MILITARY
STOCK-
PILES...



MAKES
SENSE, I
GUESS...



BUT
THAT'S
SOMETHING
ONLY SHE
KNOWS
ABOUT...



PROBABLY...

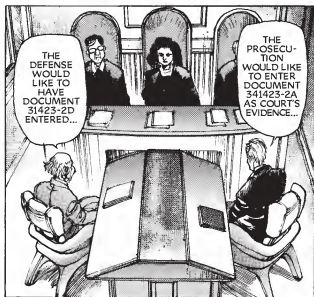
MUST BE
TOUGH ON
HER,
HUH...?



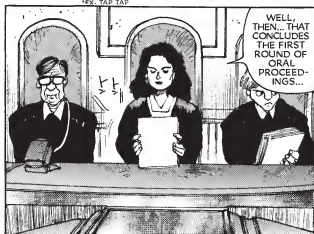
THE MODUS
OPERANDI REMINDS
ME OF THE PUPPETEER...
BUT THE BOMBS WERE
ARCHAIC... AND THEN
THERE'S THE MATTER
OF THE KEYS TO
PANDORA...

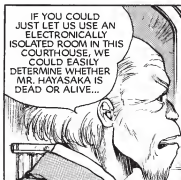
I JUST WISH I KNEW
WHAT SORT OF
CONNECTION THERE
WAS BETWEEN TAKAOKA,
THIS BUSINESS ABOUT
GIVING ACCESS KEYS
TO PANDORA TO THE
VARIOUS PREFECTURAL
GOVERNMENTS, AND
THE CASE WE'RE
WORKING ON...





*EX. TAP TAP

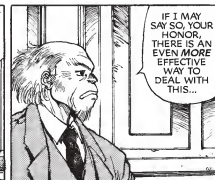




IF YOU COULD
JUST LET US USE AN
ELECTRONICALLY
ISOLATED ROOM IN THIS
COURTHOUSE, WE
COULD EASILY
DETERMINE WHETHER
MR. HAYASAKA IS
DEAD OR ALIVE...



AND WHAT
MIGHT
THAT BE,
MR.
ARAMAKI?



IF I MAY
SAY SO, YOUR
HONOR,
THERE IS AN
EVEN MORE
EFFECTIVE
WAY TO
DEAL WITH
THIS...

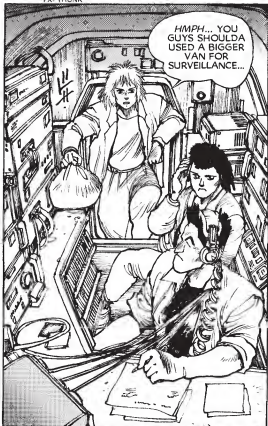


BRING MR.
HAYASAKA HERE
TOMORROW AT
9 AM... I'LL BE
HERE WAITING
FOR YOU...

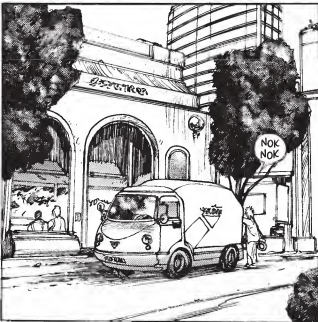


THAT
SHOULD
BE NO
PROBLEM.
WE'LL
PREPARE A
ROOM FOR
YOU...

*FX: THUNK



HMPH... YOU
GUYS SHOULD
USED A BIGGER
VAN FOR
SURVEILLANCE...



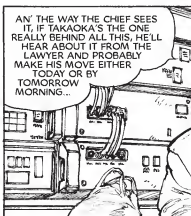
*FX: CHK CHAK



I forgot to mention it, dear reader, but this story is of course *fiction*... It stems from the illusion that there is no connection between the executive and administrative branches of government and private equities. In case you didn't know...



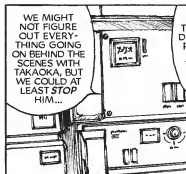
EVEN
THOUGH
HE KNOWS
WE'VE GOT
HIM UNDER
SURVEIL-
LANCE?



AN' THE WAY THE CHIEF SEES
IT, IF TAKAKAKA'S THE ONE
REALLY BEHIND ALL THIS, HE'LL
HEAR ABOUT IT FROM THE
LAWYER AND PROBABLY
MAKE HIS MOVE EITHER
TODAY OR BY
TOMORROW
MORNING...



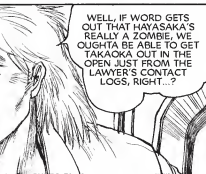
SO
HAYASAKA'S
GONNA BE
TESTED
TOMORROW
MORNING AT
9AM IN THE
COURT-
HOUSE...



WE MIGHT
NOT FIGURE
OUT EVERY-
THING GOING
ON BEHIND THE
SCENES WITH
TAKAKAKA, BUT
WE COULD AT
LEAST STOP
HIM...



AND THEN
THE COUNCIL
DEALING WITH
PANDORA'LL
BE BACK TO
SQUARE
ONE...



WELL, IF WORD GETS
OUT THAT HAYASAKA'S
REALLY A ZOMBIE, WE
OUGHTA BE ABLE TO GET
TAKAKAKA OUT IN THE
OPEN JUST FROM THE
LAWYER'S CONTACT
LOGS, RIGHT...?



WHAT THE
FUCK?



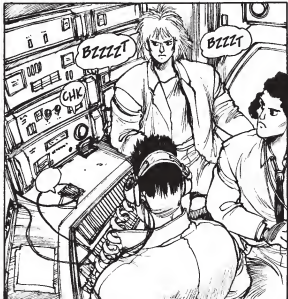
AND HE'S
TALKING TO
HAYASAKA'S
LAWYER!!



WE'RE
RECORDING!



TAKAKAKA'S
PICKED UP
THE
RECEIVER!!



BZZZZ!

BZZZZ!

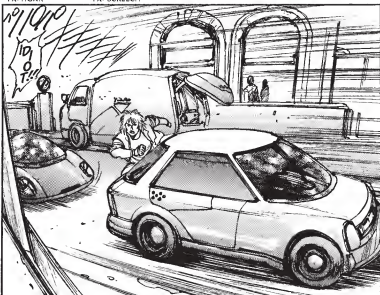
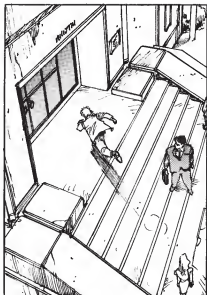


*FX: BZZZZZZZZZZ



*FX: HOWL

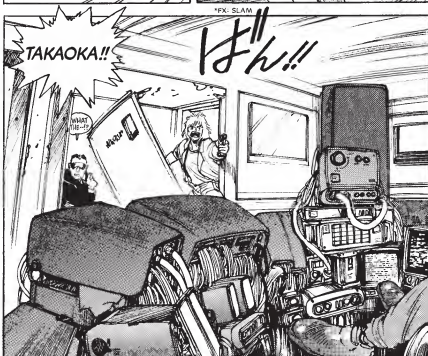
*FX: SCREECH

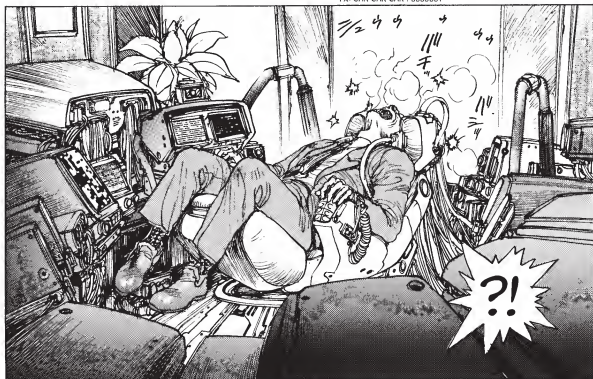


No non-cyborg readers should ever try this...



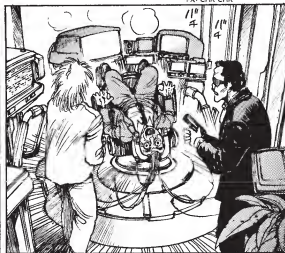
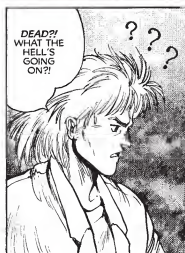
*FX: SLAM

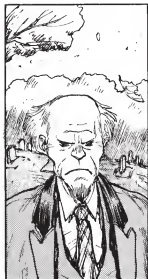




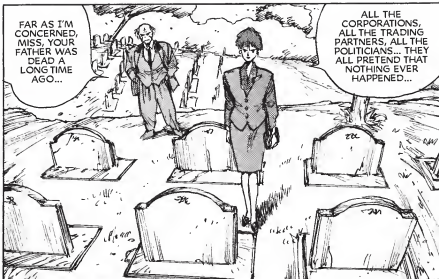
*FX: CHK CHK

*FX: CHK CHK





FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MISS, YOUR FATHER WAS DEAD A LONG TIME AGO...

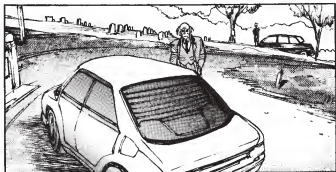


ALL THE CORPORATIONS, ALL THE TRADING PARTNERS, ALL THE POLITICIANS... THEY ALL PRETEND THAT NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...

...I WONDER IF HE HAD ANYTHING VALUABLE LEFT TO PAY THE PRICE...



WITH ALL THE YEARS HE SPENT TRYING TO ACCUMULATE POWER AND MONEY...



WELL, I'M SURE THAT IT WAS WORTHY WORK TO HIM, MISS...

GUESS WE WON'T HAVE KUSUNOKI NIPPING AT OUR HEELS FOR A WHILE, EH?

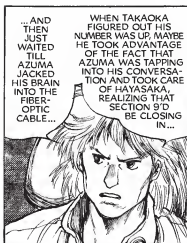
THEY SAY HAYASAKA'S LAWYER AND THE PHYSICIAN--WHO TESTIFIED TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WAS ALIVE--BOTH RECEIVED SUSPENDED SENTENCES. AND KUSUNOKI'S "COMMITTEE FOR THE INQUEST OF PROSECUTION" RECEIVED THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ACQUITTAL...





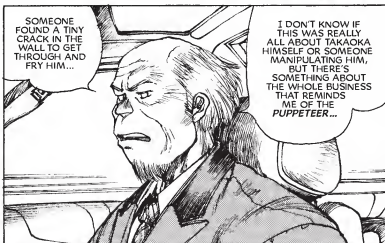
DON'T
FORGET
TAKAOKA'S
DEATH,
THOUGH...

THAT'S ONE
THING OUT OF
THE WAY... AND
WE DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT THE
PANDORA
CASE FOR A WHILE,
EITHER...



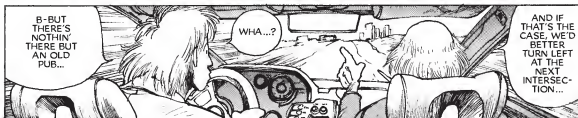
...AND
THEN
JUST
WAITED
TILL
AZUMA
JACKED
HIS BRAIN
INTO THE
FIBER-
OPTIC
CABLE...

WHEN TAKAOKA
FIGURED OUT HIS
NUMBER WAS UP, MAYBE
HE TOOK ADVANTAGE
OF THE FACT THAT
AZUMA WAS TAPPING
INTO HIS CONVERSA-
TION AND TOOK CARE
OF HAYASAKA,
REALIZING THAT
SECTION 9'D
BE CLOSING
IN...



SOMEONE
FOUND A TINY
CRACK IN THE
WALL TO GET
THROUGH AND
FRY HIM...

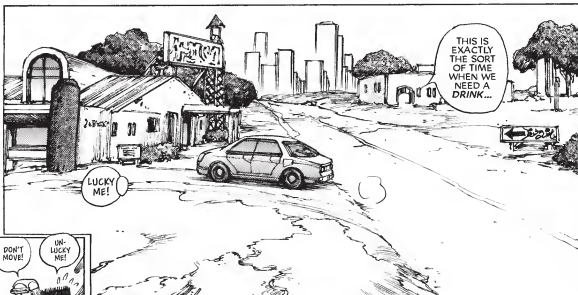
I DON'T KNOW IF
THIS WAS REALLY
ALL ABOUT TAKAOKA
HIMSELF OR SOMEONE
MANIPULATING HIM,
BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT
THE WHOLE BUSINESS
THAT REMINDS
ME OF THE
PUPPETEER...



B-BUT
THERE'S
NOTHIN'
THERE BUT
AN OLD
PUB...

WHA...?

AND IF
THAT'S THE
CASE, WE'D
BETTER
TURN LEFT
AT THE
NEXT
INTERSEC-
TION...



THIS IS
EXACTLY
THE SORT
OF TIME
WHEN WE
NEED A
DRINK...

LUCKY
ME!



DON'T
MOVE!

UN-
LUCKY
ME!

03

DRIVE SLAVE Part 1

1992





THEY
STILL ON
OUR
TAIL?!

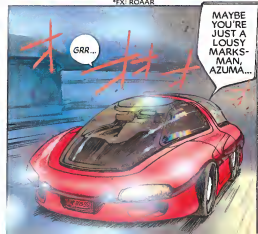


AW,
SHADDUP!!
AN 'STAY
STILL TILL I
SAY IT'S
OKAY...

IF THAT'S THE
CASE, TAKE
THIS BAG OFF
ME! I FEEL
LIKE I'M
GOING TO
SUFFO-
CATE!

WITH
ALL THIS
CHAOS,
I CAN'T
DETECT
THEM!

*FX: ROAR



GRR...

MAYBE
YOU'RE
JUST A
LOUSY
MARKS-
MAN,
AZUMA...

YEAH, BUT IT'S
DEFINITELY NOT
ENOUGH IF WE
HAVE TO
USE IT ALL FOR
DEFENSE,
PAL...

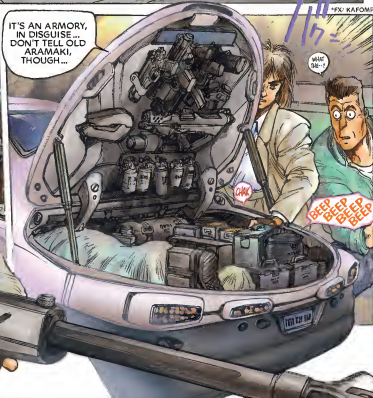
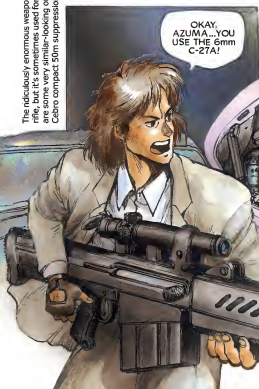
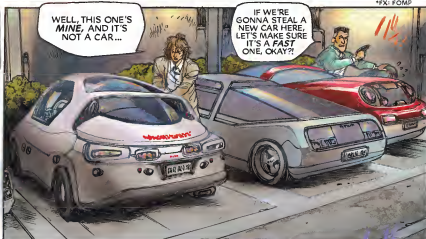
AZUMA...
YOU GOT
ANY
AMMO
LEFT?

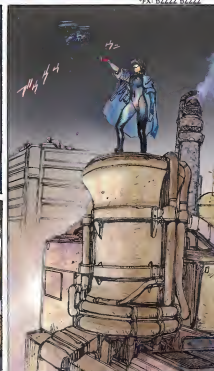
THEY MIGHT'VE
PLANTED SOMETHING
IN YOUR NOGGIN,
DR. ISHIDA, SO YOU'RE
JUST GONNA HAVE TO
WEAR THAT BAG UNTIL
WE HAVE TIME TO
CHECK YOU
OUT...



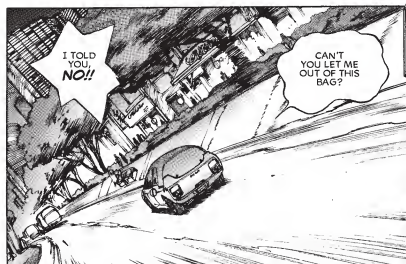
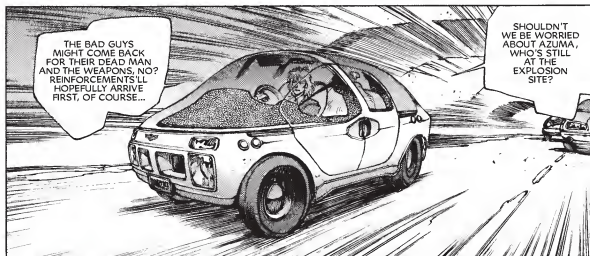


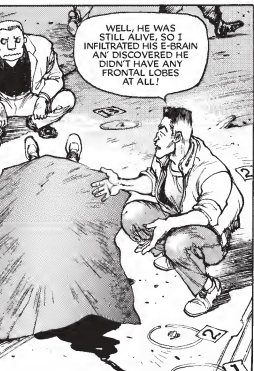
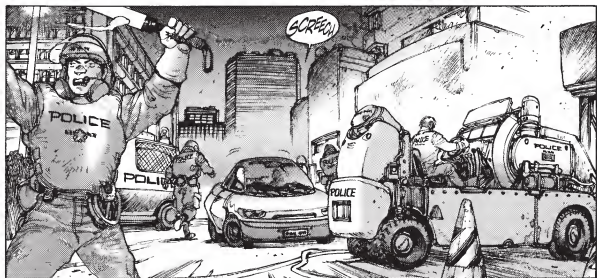
The ridiculously enormous weapon Togusa's holding is a 50 caliber rifle. It's a type of anti-tank rifle, but it's sometimes used for sniping, too. I made up the details on this gun, but there are some very similar-looking ones in the real world. C-27A is the name for a '27 model Cabro compact 50m suppression firearm. The magazine holds six 25mm HESH shells.





You can see from the illustration in panel 4 that Azuma's C-27A has a sight mounted on the cartridge catcher. It's one of those ridiculous things where the front sight is sold separately. And Azuma really should be using the cheek rest on the thing...







...BUT JUST THINK
WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR
US TO BE CHASED
BY ZOMBIES FOR
OVER FORTY
MINUTES!

IT'S EASY
FOR YOU
TA BE SO
FLIPPANT,
BATOU...



OUR TOP
PRIORITY
NOW'S TO
PROTECT THE
WITNESS...

TIME
TA HEAD
FOR THE
HOSPITAL,
AZUMA...

*CHAK



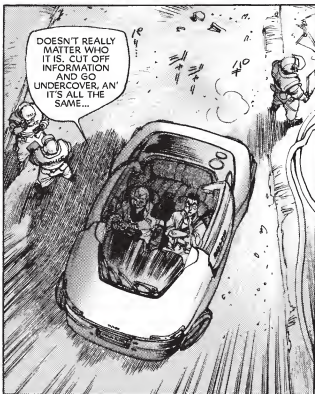
ME?
ALL
ALONE?



CHECK OUT HIS
I.D., AND FIGURE
OUT WHERE THE
EXPLOSIVES AND
THE EQUIPMENT
COMES FROM... PAY
CLOSE ATTENTION
TO HIS BRAIN
CONDITION...

BE CAREFUL!
WE COULD
BE ATTACKED
AGAIN AT ANY
MINUTE,
PAL...

WHAT THE--?! HEY,
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED
TO PUT A SHEET OVER
THE BODY TILL WE
FORENSICS GUYS FROM
THE LAB GET A GOOD
LOOK AT HIM!



DOESN'T REALLY
MATTER WHO
IT IS... CUT OFF
INFORMATION
AND GO
UNDERCOVER, AN'
IT'S ALL THE
SAME...



YOU KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
THIS
WITNESS,
BATOU?



PROLLY
FOR A
TRIAL,
YAH?

CHK
CHK

*FX: VROOM

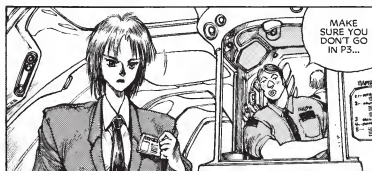
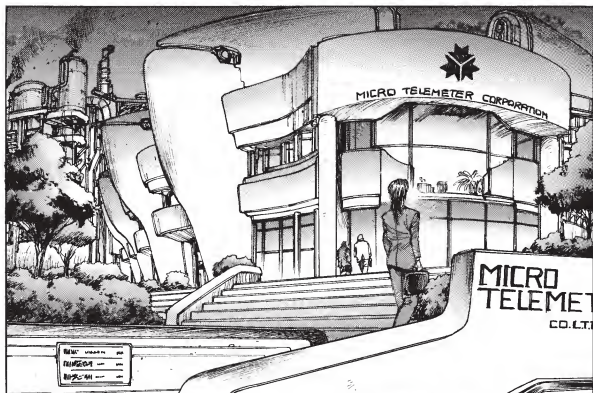


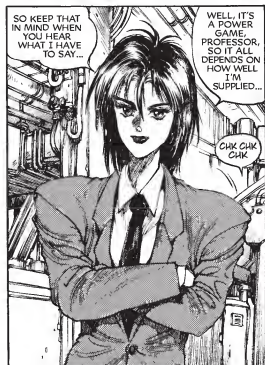
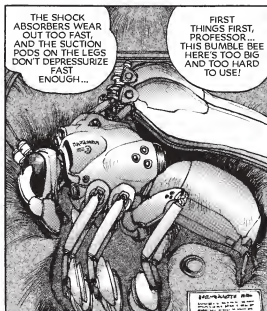
DUNNO,
AN' I'M NOT
INTERESTED,
EITHER...

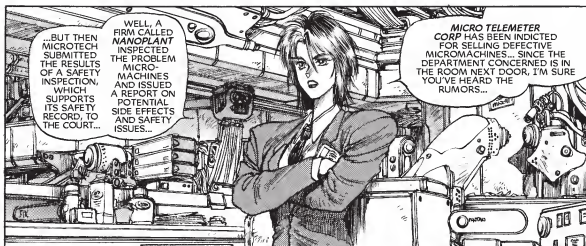
HMPH,
WELL YOU
DID ASK IF
I KNEW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
HIM...

BUT WHAT
AN' WHO'S
TRIAL? THAT'S
WHAT I'M
ASKING!

*FX: VROOM SCRUNCH VROOM







...BUT THEN MICROTECH SUBMITTED THE RESULTS OF A SAFETY INSPECTION, WHICH SUPPORTS ITS SAFETY RECORD, TO THE COURT...

WELL, A FIRM CALLED **NANOPLANT** INSPECTED THE PROBLEM MICRO-MACHINES AND ISSUED A REPORT ON POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS AND SAFETY ISSUES...

MICRO TELEMETER CORP HAS BEEN INDICTED FOR SELLING DEFECTIVE MICROMACHINES... SINCE THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED IS IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR, I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE RUMORS...



ACTUALLY, IT'S PROBABLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND...

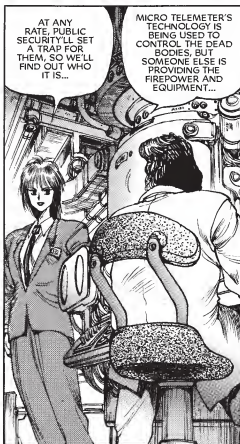


BY **NANO-PLANT**!?



HOWEVER, SOME THUGS'VE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY, SAYING THEY WERE ASKED TO DO SO BY **NANOPLANT**!

...SO THE JUDGE HAS SET UP MULTIPLE TESTS, TO BE CONDUCTED BY IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTIES...



AT ANY RATE, PUBLIC SECURITY'LL SET A TRAP FOR THEM, SO WE'LL FIND OUT WHO IT IS...

MICRO TELEMETER'S TECHNOLOGY IS BEING USED TO CONTROL THE DEAD BODIES, BUT SOMEONE ELSE IS PROVIDING THE FIREPOWER AND EQUIPMENT...



SECTION 9 OF PUBLIC SECURITY HAS DR. **ISHIDA** UNDER CONTROL....

BASICALLY, DR. **ISHIDA** WAS THE WHISTLE-BLOWER IN THIS CASE, AND **MICRO TELEMETER'S** AFTER HIM AS A RESULT. AS FOR YOUR WOMAN, SHE PROBABLY JUST SAW OR HEARD SOMETHING SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO...

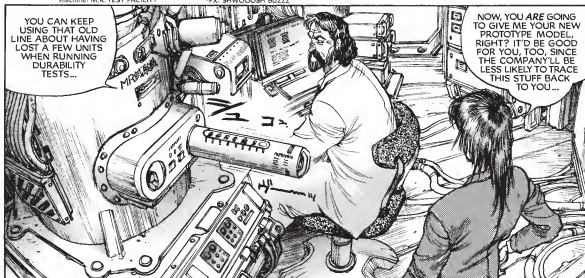


I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT...

BUT IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, MAYBE I CAN DEAL WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT...

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THE COMPANY'D GO AFTER MY GIRL-FRIEND...

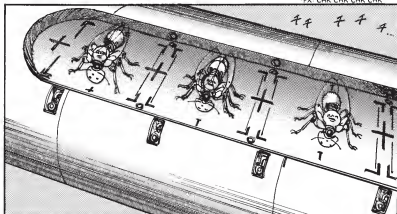
Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau is original to this manga. According to the information that I have on hand, the real Public Security currently consists of General Affairs (including special support troops), Section 1 (in charge of investigating student movements and radical activities), Section 2 (labor disputes and organized crime), Section 3 (right-wing activities), Section 4 (information gathering, statistics, etc.), External Affairs Section 1 (in charge of investigating non-Asian foreigners), and External Affairs Section 2 (Asian foreigners).



YOU CAN KEEP USING THAT OLD LINE ABOUT HAVING LOST A FEW UNITS WHEN RUNNING DURABILITY TESTS...

NOW, YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE ME YOUR NEW PROTOTYPE MODEL, RIGHT? IT'D BE GOOD FOR YOU, TOO, SINCE THE COMPANY'LL BE LESS LIKELY TO TRACE THIS STUFF BACK TO YOU...

*FX: CHK CHK CHK CHK



YOU CAN EXPECT THEM TO MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS FLYING CICADAS...

JUST FOR YOUR REFERENCE, THIS TIME ALL SIX FLY, NOT WITH ROTORS, BUT WITH REAL WINGS FLAPPING AT 70 HZ!

*FX: BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ



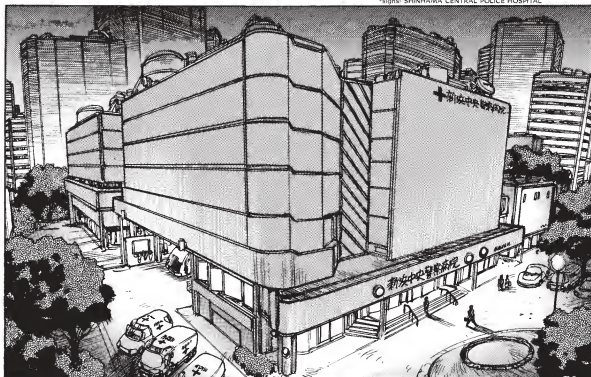
I'LL KEEP TRYING TO FIND AND RECOVER YOUR LADY FRIEND, PROFESSOR, AND IN THE PROCESS ALSO PUT THESE THINGS THROUGH THEIR PACES IN ACTUAL COMBAT...



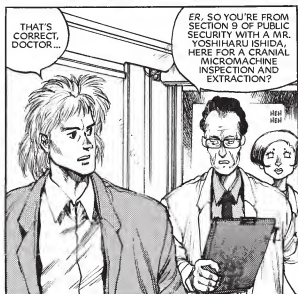
WELL, I'VE FINISHED TESTING THEM UP TO THE TWO FONT CLASS, USING A SLAVE RATIO OF 10-4 MILLI-MACHINES...

HMM... THE WORLD'S MOST MINATURE FLYING HYPODERMICS... SO HOW MUCH CAN EACH CYCLINDER CARRY?

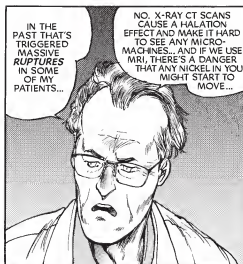
Section 9 was formed as a small-scale, highly privileged and elite organization, in conjunction with a crossover in categories of criminal activity. (An example of such a crossover would be Asian mafia and right-wing Japanese gangs that attempt to import illegal weapons and assassinate corporate VIPs, using funds procured from the sale of drugs, and are — "phew"— themselves sometimes infiltrated by the FBI., etc., etc.,...) Public Security specializes in domestic affairs, but on paper is positioned as an organization involved in international rescue efforts, etc. Members are specially selected from other groups, and thus no volunteers are accepted.



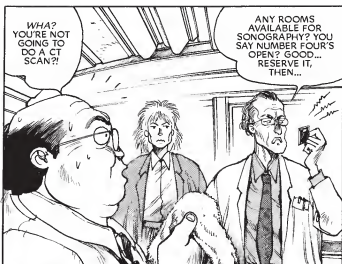
*FX: RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE



*FX: P-P-BIP



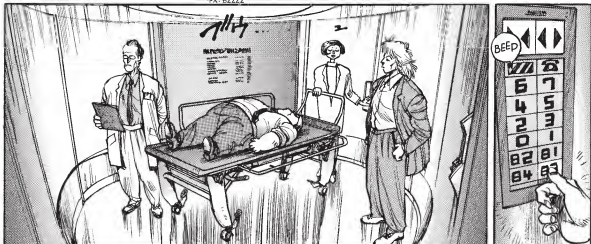
*FX AAAAA



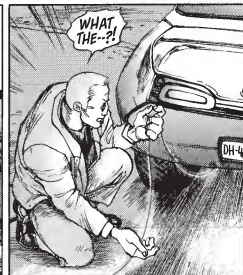
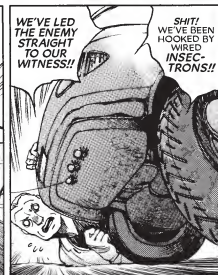
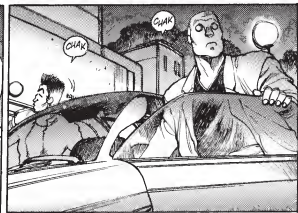
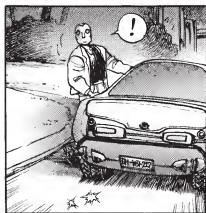
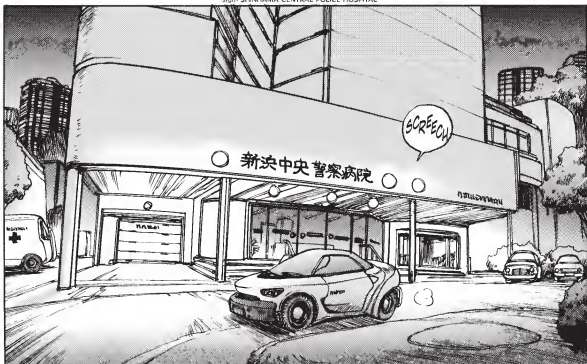
*FX RATTLE RATTLE CLATTER



*FX BZZZZ



I don't mean to imply that nickel is the only thing that would move in the human body when doing an MRI... Other elements with strong magnetic susceptibility, from scandium to lead, would also be a problem. The author of this story (me) chose nickel here because it would likely be used near e-brain micromachines and transformers. Nickel-titanium alloys and grade 316 stainless steel would also present the most problems with biocompatibility... I've never done any experiments in this regard, of course, or even designed any micromachines. And what the doctor refers to as "nickel" here is in reality probably the ferromagnetic material NiO-Fe2O3. (Ferrites are, of course, used in stuff like high-frequency transformers and magnetic recording devices...).



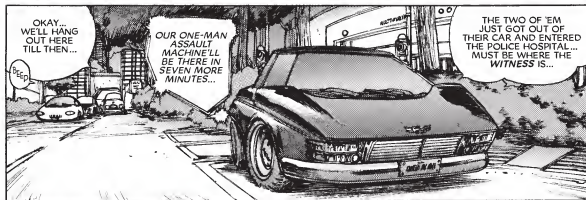
THEN WE'VE
GOTTA KEEP
MOVING AND
CHANGE CARS!!

WE'VE LED
THE ENEMY
STRAIGHT
TO OUR
WITNESS!!

SHIT!
WE'VE BEEN
HOOKED BY
WIRED
INSECT-
TRONS!!

WHAT
THE--?!

Insectrons: general name (made up, of course) given to insect-like robots ranging in size from several millimeters to several centimeters. Micromachining is currently a hot field of research, and there is a great deal of anticipation that future applications of the technology could include insect pest eradication or performance of maintenance procedures (including interior photography) on tiny capillaries and vessels. Larger-scale applications are reportedly already in use. In addition to such mechanical engineering approaches, some scientists are also attempting to use genetically engineered bio-organisms to accomplish similar tasks. Rather than refer to "robots" in this case, I probably should just say "devices"...



Regarding the spider threads shown on the previous page, like real spider threads, these are "extracted" from a tank in the belly of the tiny robot. But that doesn't mean that the threads are actually wound and stored on an internal reel structure. (I used to think that spider threads were created through some sort of physical interaction of liquid with the air...) In addition to simply maneuvering about, spiders use their threads as "bookmarks" or "stopposts" when evacuating an area in an emergency or when attacking. In the case of insectrons, one also has to take into account the extreme viscous resistance and tension of the threads they deploy. So even if the insectrons have successfully attached themselves to a surface with their suction cups, they probably have to sever their threads in a relative hurry. Actual spider threads, by the way, are created from a protein matter called fibroin, and are said to have greater elasticity and tensile strength than nylon...



*photo: TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS WOMAN...



*FX: TAP TAP TAP



*KASHONKI



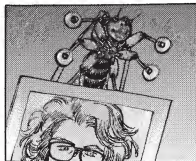
*FX: KAFUMP KAFUMP



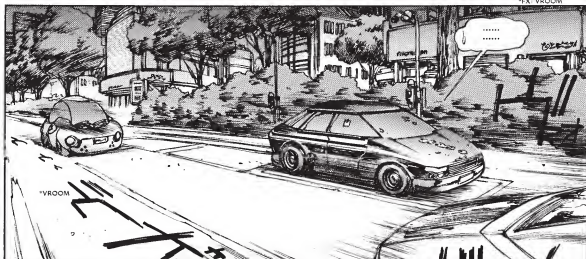
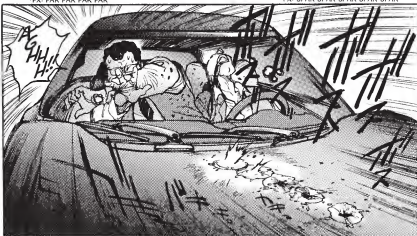
*FX: SPAT SHOOK

*FX: KAFUMP KAFUMP

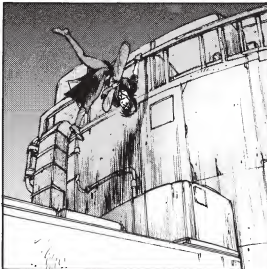
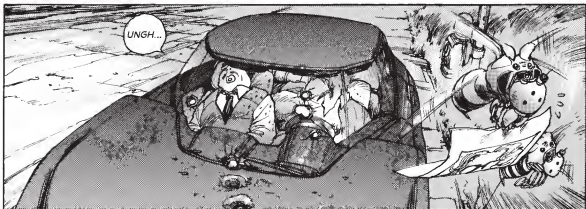
*FX: DRIP DROP DRIP DRIP



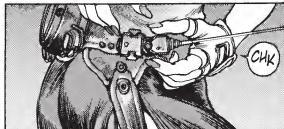
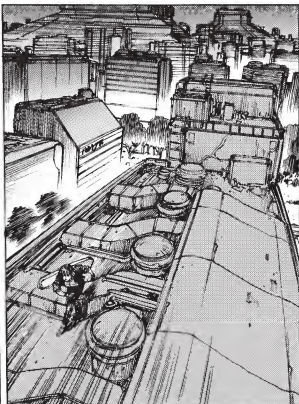
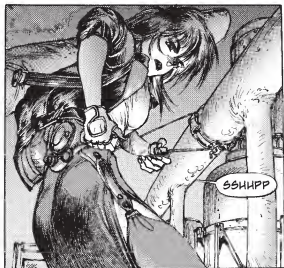
Forgive me, dear readers, for continuing with my discussion of spider-style insectrons, but there is one other factoid that I should note here. If the insectron deposits micro drops of its sticky thread liquid at one to two meter intervals and then lets threads play out from the center of the car, they'd be less likely to be disconnected or severed except during lane changes or in pedestrian crossings. (Of course the thread liquid would be used up faster...) For trailing another vehicle at a distance of one kilometer or so, this might do the trick. (Of course, the insectron's tank capacity would be an issue, but the *nephila clavata* spider can reportedly spin over 700 meters of thread...)



If any readers wonder why the bullet holes in panel 4 of the previous page aren't smaller, it's probably because the bullets rotated slightly when they penetrated the car's windshield. Of course, the bullets went right through the entire car and smashed into the road, but even with their large caliber they weren't able to pierce the car's engine block. Given the distance involved, the victims wouldn't hear any audible gunshots or be able to see a reflection from the rifle scope lens (in this manga, at least)...



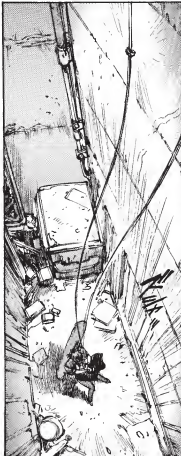
The man in the driver's seat was shot to death as a "warning" and also to physically prevent anyone else from easily taking over the wheel and continuing to drive the car. Of course, we're assuming that in this case the flunky driving the car is lower down on the organizational totem pole and wouldn't be carrying any information of particular importance in his head. One doesn't hear much about it any more (perhaps because of the seeming cruelty involved), but when security personnel are escorting a VIP under heavy guard and the car's driver is shot, the other security personnel are sometimes taught to toss the driver's body out of the car, take over the wheel, and keep on driving. Also, in the first panel on this page please overlook the fact that I drew the bullet hole in the windshield in what would be regarded as a slightly out-of-date style.



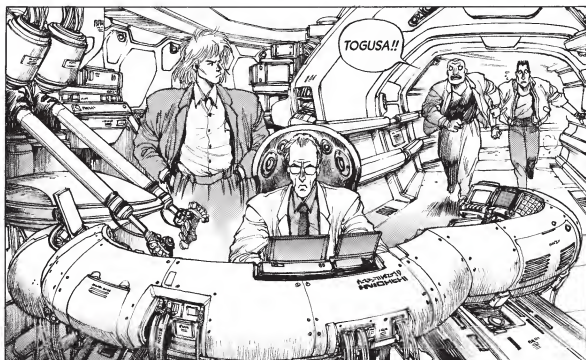
*FX: SHAK

*FX: THUD

*FX: ZZZIP



Regarding sniping, in this case, for Chroma/Major to be out of normal visual range, a distance of around 400 meters from the victim would usually suffice. One of the main things that she has to worry about is that—since she's not using a linear rifle—the sound of the gunshot is pretty loud. I made her rifle a heavy barrel, bolt-action design because I've heard that M-16s, etc., wouldn't be effective, presumably because of their small caliber. In this story, her rifle uses 9mm bullets. The protrusion on the side of the magazine is a cartridge catcher. Assume that she doesn't leave any footprints because her shoes have spikes.



YA KNOW WHAT, TOGUSA? YER ALL WHINE AND NO RESPECT THESE DAYS! RIGHT NOW I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE WITNESS! WHERE IS HE?



YOU MEAN WE'VE HAD AN INFO LEAK?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE OLD PRO, BATOU! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D LET SOMEONE TAIL YOU!!

HOW THE HELL'D THEY--?!



WE'VE GOTTA GET THE WITNESS OUTTA HERE NOW!

THEY'VE DETECTED OUR LOCATION!!

*FX: THUD



GOOD THING OUR WEAPONS ARRIVED HERE FIRST!

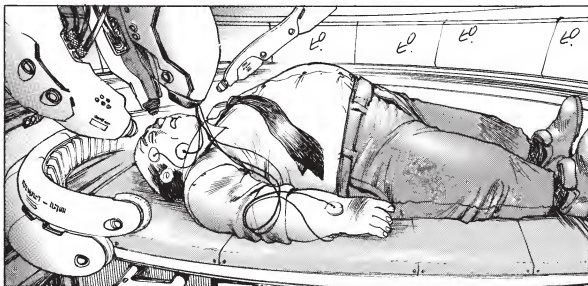
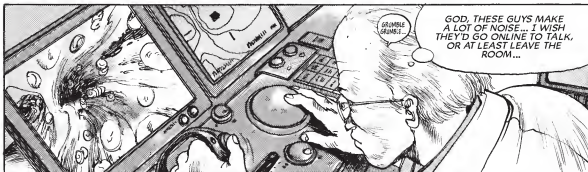
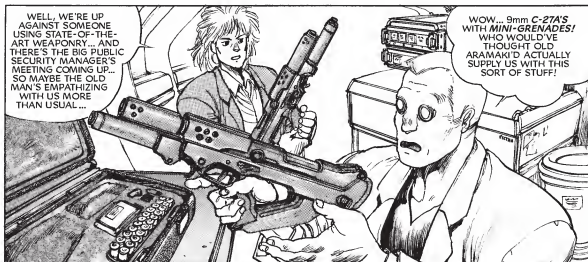
SO, BASICALLY WE'VE GOTTA HOLE UP IN HERE TILL THE TELESURGERY ENDS!!



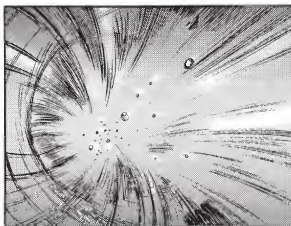
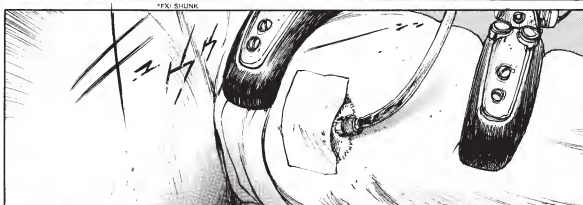
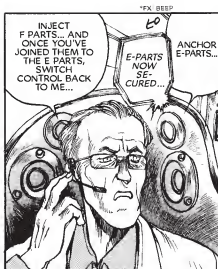
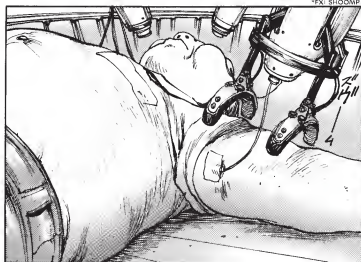
YOU WH-- WHAT?!!

SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T MOVE THE PATIENT NOW... I'M IN THE MIST OF REMOVING SOME EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL FROM HIS CAROTID ARTERY...

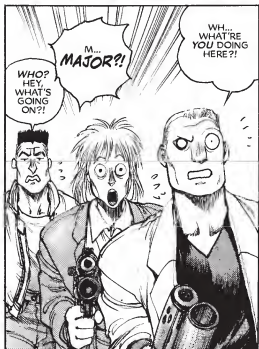
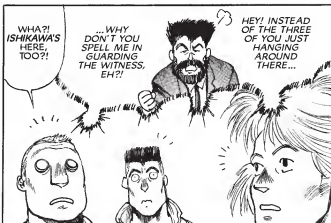
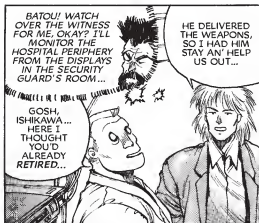
In this case "telesurgery" doesn't refer to examining—from a central hospital—tissue samples taken from a patient at a remote location. It's an extrapolation of the sort of technology that currently allows viewing—from another room—of images taken with a gastro camera. In this story, a more advanced version of the same technology is used to navigate through the body's blood vessels and to send electronically enhanced compound computer images to a remote monitor. The system can also be used to remotely remove foreign matter (as long as it's not too large) from the patient, using scissors, bonding agents, staples, etc.



*FX: DEEP DEEP DEEP DEEP



Regarding the "two" explosives—I arbitrarily came up with this number. First of all, only a limited number of blood vessels are searched, because they have to be ones wide enough to accommodate the inserted explosives. The doctor then injects thousands of micromachines into these blood vessels. The micromachines proceed to detect relatively large foreign particles (especially the metallic portion of any signal receivers attached to the explosive material in the body), to adhere to them and then to emit an audio alert (of course, inaudible to humans under normal circumstances).





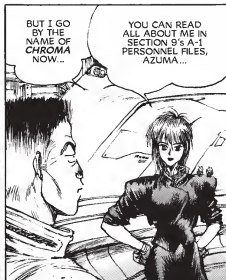
DON'T WORRY, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ILLEGALLY IMPORTED WEAPONS OR THE IMPROPRIETIES OF MICRO TELE-METER CORPORATION...



JEEZ, MAJOR... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE BAD GUYS NOW!

GRR...

WHAT'RE ALL YOU SECTION 9 GUYS DOING HERE?! WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE ROOM? YOU'RE JUST GETTING IN THE WAY!



BUT I GO BY THE NAME OF CHROMA NOW...

YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT ME IN SECTION 9'S A-1 PERSONNEL FILES, AZUMA...



IF I TOLD YOU SHE'D BE ARRIVING HERE ANY MINUTE, AS AN ARMED ZOMBIE... YOU'D UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?



B...BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THE CASE WE'RE ON?!



I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN RETRIEVING THE WOMAN IN THE PHOTO, WITH AS LITTLE DAMAGE TO HER AS POSSIBLE...



WHERE'D YOU GET THE INFO ON HIM, EH?!

NOW, HOLD ON A SECOND! YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE GIRL WAS, BUT YOU KNOW WHERE DR. ISHIDA IS, RIGHT?

EASY ON THE SALIVA...



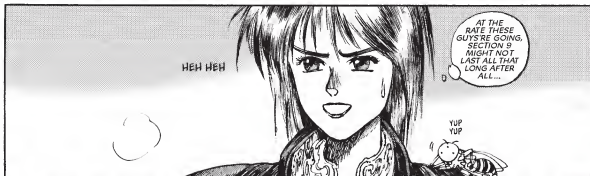
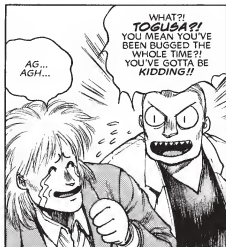
I JUST NEED YOUR COOPERATION, THAT'S ALL...

NO, STUPID!



YOU MEAN YOU WANT US TO BUTT OUT?

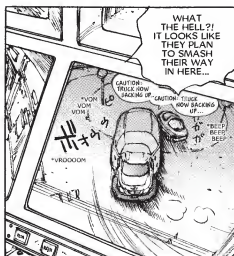
*FX: BZZ BZZZ BZZ



*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

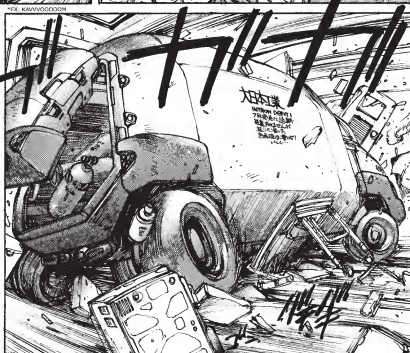
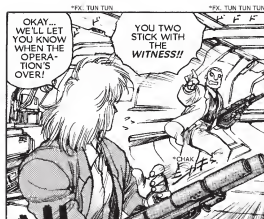
*FX: VROOOM





*FX: KAVORR

*sign: RECEPTION AREA



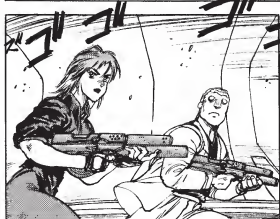
One doesn't normally use the verb *consume* with weapons, but ammunition and bullets are consumed, so we're not just talking about "borrowing" in the strict sense. And when we talk about "using" explosives, we're talking about a license to "use/consume" them, and not just the "license to handle explosives" often seen in manga, etc. Just as one needs more than a license to drive a car (one needs the car itself)—in the case of explosives, the licensed user is usually supplied only the amount of material specified in the license...



*FX: KABOOOOH



*FX: ROAR



*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



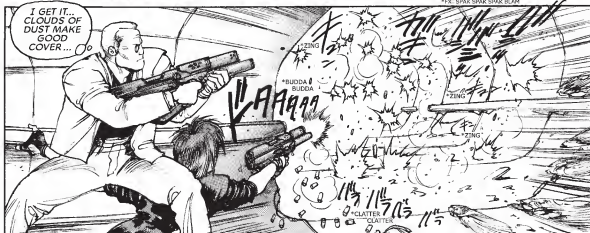
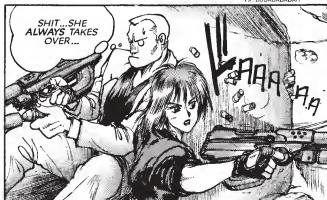
*FX: KAVOOMP



The pair may seem to be running in an odd way with their weapons, but it's because they're always concentrating on keeping their upper torsos properly aligned, and mainly moving their lower torsos. I know it would look "cooler" to draw them running bent at the waist, waving their guns about, but these are two highly trained professionals, entirely incapable of assuming a specific stance just for the sake of looking "cool." In reality, their stance is actually far superior, both in terms of stability and reaction times...

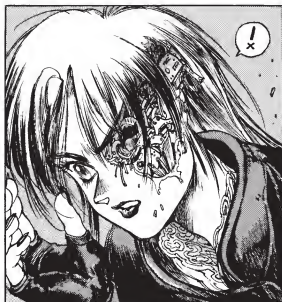


*FX: BUDADADDAH



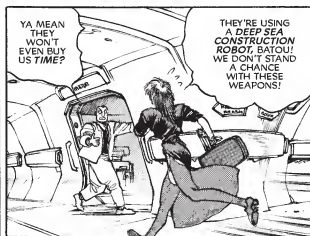
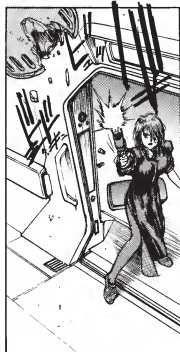
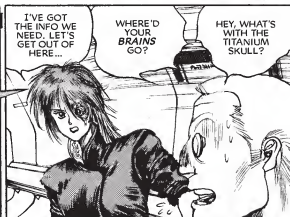
*FX: KASHAK

*FX: BUDADADDAH



*display: CORRECTION MODE

*FX: KAVOSHP

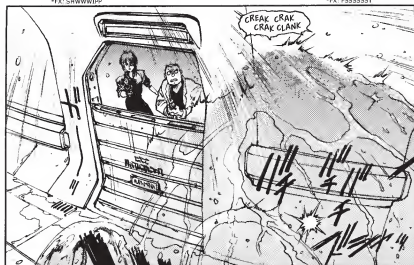


*FX: FOMP SPARK SPARK SPARK BLAM

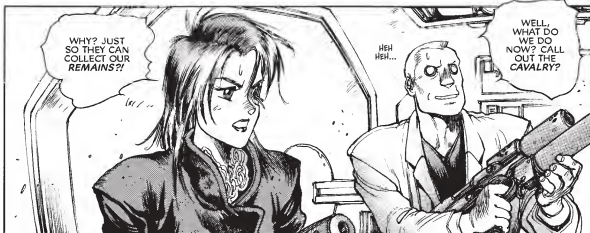
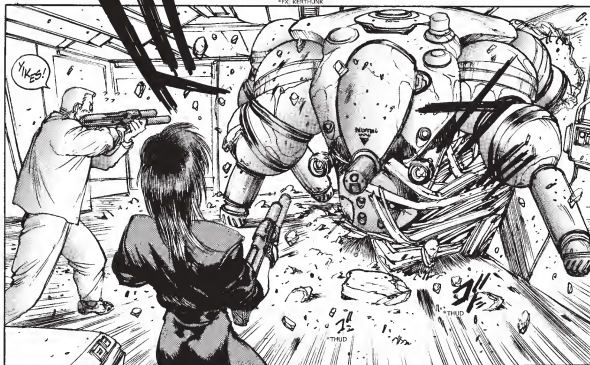
*FX: SHWWWWP

*FX: FSSSSST

*FX: FSSSSHHH



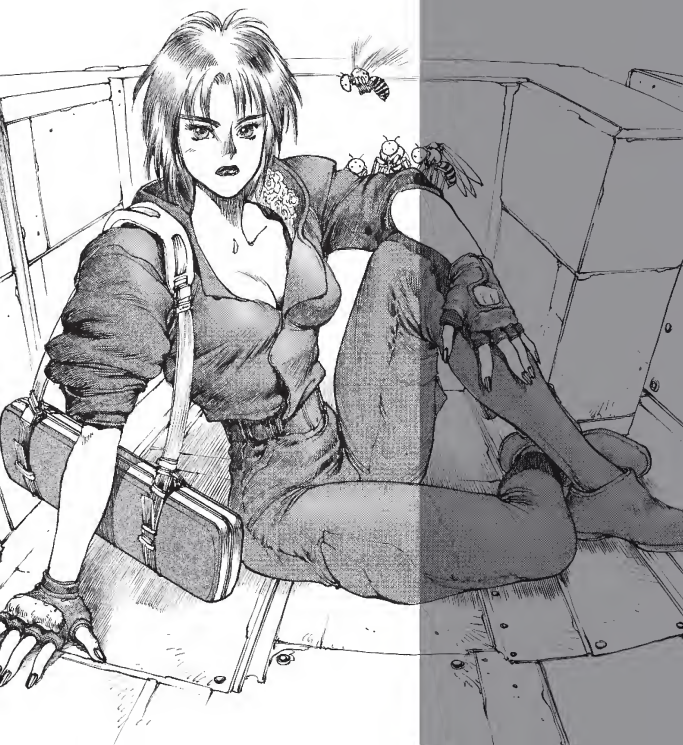
*FX: BERTH-LUNK

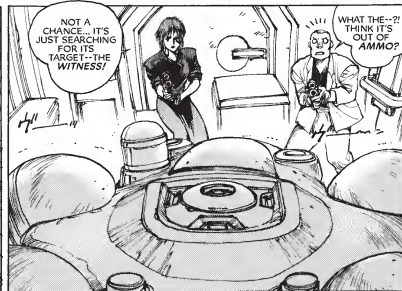
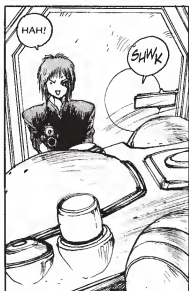
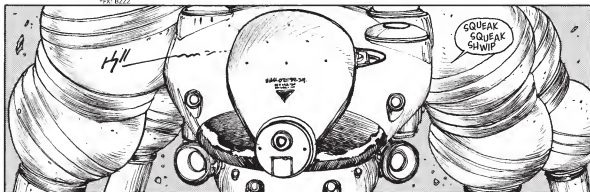


DRIVE SLAVE 04

Part 2

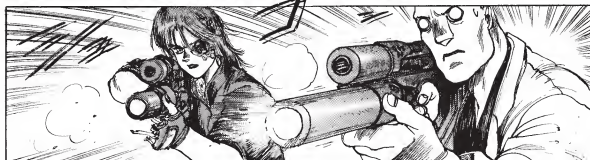
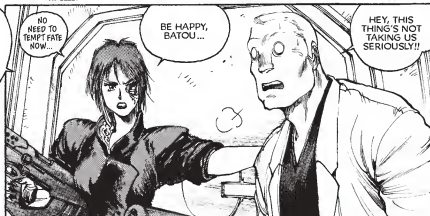
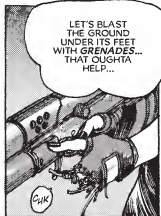
1992





*FX: B222

*FX: B222



*FX: FAWDOSH

*FX: KAVOOOHH



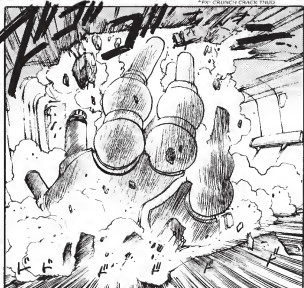
*FX: KATHUD CRASH



*FX: CRUMPLE CRACK THUD



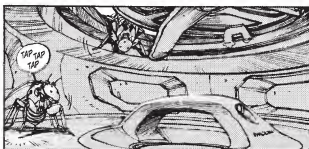
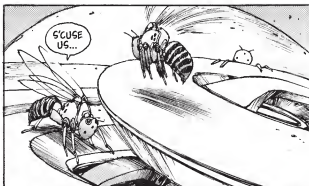
*FX: FWOOSH



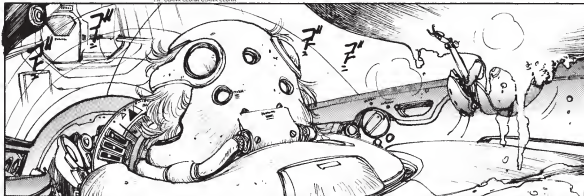
*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



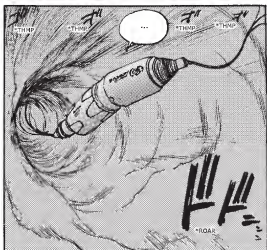
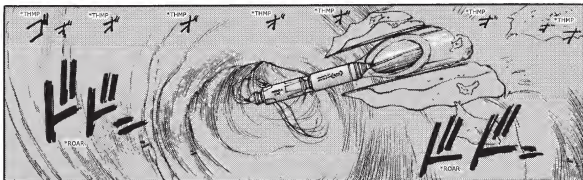
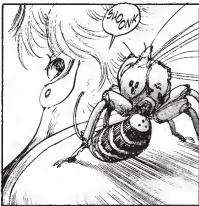
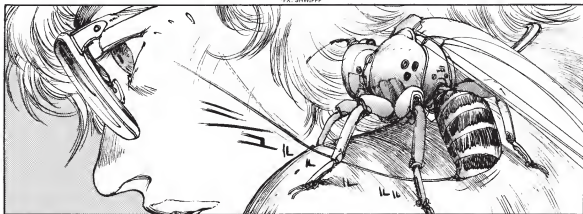
I must make a comment for the sake of fans who might snicker when they see this sort of mecha. Real robots have different exterior coverings, and they are already at work in a wide variety of industries. So it's a little behind the times to say this one is "something out of sci-fi." The real-life robots that most resemble my drawing here are surely those developed for work in extremely hazardous environments—such as the six-legged model designed to work in undersea oil fields, or "Ken-Chan," which was developed to work in nuclear reactors. Of course the "robots" in this case are actually remote-controlled, so whether they should really be called "robots" is probably open to debate. Just for reference, although the word robot appears many times in the officially recognized list of J.I.S. (Japan Industrial Standards) terms, there apparently is, strictly speaking, no single, universally agreed-upon definition in existence.



*FX CLANK CLUNK CLANK CLUNK



This six-legged diver mecha is not designed for truly deep-sea work, and therefore is made of aluminum rather than titanium. The bee-probe robots are probably immune to the acid being used, because they are made of special plastic resin and glass elements. When this mecha first appeared Motoko/Chromie referred to it as a "construction robot," but this is technically incorrect. It can be used as a robot, of course, but when there is a human operator inside it may be better to consider it to be some sort of an undersea "vessel." I know it probably should be remote-controlled... For readers who want to know more about robot weaponry, allow me to recommend the Japan Military Review Co.'s April 1992 issue of *Gunji Kenkyu* ("Military Research").



I could have shown red blood corpuscles roaring through the inside of blood vessels, a la *Fantastic Voyage*, but with the sort of microsurgery I'm depicting here, millimeter-scale machines are used, so red corpuscles, which are nearly a thousand times smaller, wouldn't be very visible. I do worry that the blood vessel I've drawn looks like some sort of gritty liquid, but what the heck... The forward part of the tiny machine shown here, with the flagella-like protrusions, is designed to help the device navigate the blood flow; adjusting its length also adjusts the machine's speed. The line protruding out of the rear of the device is not flagella, but a life-line. In the first panel on this page the bee-probe is shown getting the air out of its stinger-like tube...



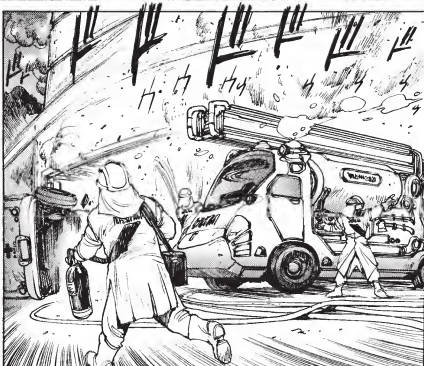
*FX: WHREE WHREE WHREE



THEY MUST BE HIDING ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP, IN A CAR, OR EVEN IN A HOSPITAL...



*FX: WHREE WHREE WHREE



*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE ROAR

*FX: WHREE WHREE WHREE



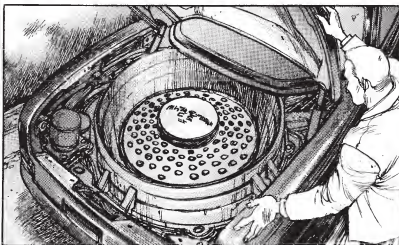
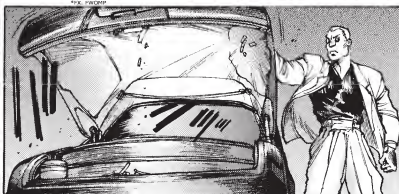
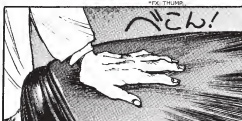
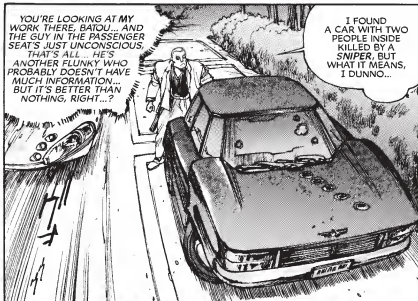
WHAT? THE PERSON BEHIND ALL THIS MIGHT BE A COPY OF ME?

WOULDN'T HAVE THAT LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE...?



WHA? NO BRAIN DAMAGE? SHE EVEN HAS FRONTAL LOBES? WOW, AM I EVER LUCKY!!







ME AND AZUMA
ARE GONNA GO
INTO HIDING WITH
THE WITNESS, SO
THE REST'S UP
TO YOU!

TOGUSA
TO BATOU!
THE DOCTOR
HAS COMPLETED
SURGERY
ON THE
WITNESS!!



AND IF
THAT'S THE
CASE, I'VE
GOT THE UPPER
HAND HERE,
'CUZ I CAN SEND
THE CRIMINALS
AT MICRO
TELEMETRY
TO THE
SLAMMER...

AS LONG
AS THE BAD
GUYS DON'T
KNOW WHERE
THE WITNESS IS,
THEY CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
TO HIM...

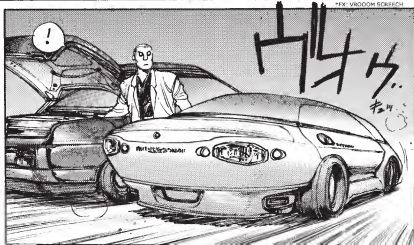
WELL...
MAKE
SURE YOU
DO A
GOOD JOB
HIDING!



I MEAN,
IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU
CAN USE
THIS TO GET
TO THE
OTHER CONSPIR-
ATORS...

DON'T
WORRY, I'M
GIVING YOU THE
PROSTHETIC BODY
I WAS USING
BEFORE... NO
PROBLEM WITH
THAT, RIGHT?

MAYBE I SHOULD
CALL IT A
"REMOTE-
CONTROLLED
ROBOT"?



*FX: VIBROOON SCREECH

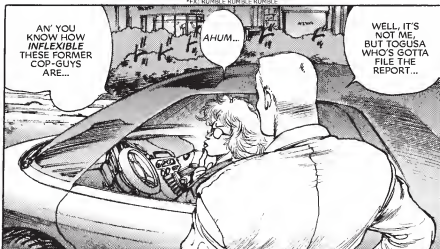


WH...
WHAT
THE--?!

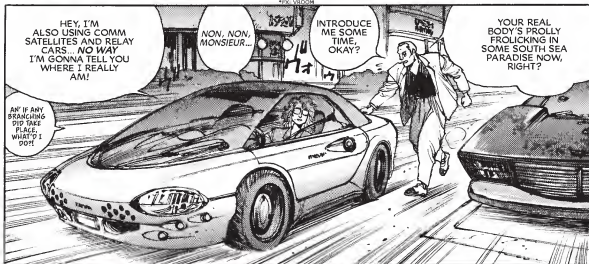
YO, BATOU...
I'M TAKING
OFF WITH THIS
WOMAN HERE,
OKAY...?

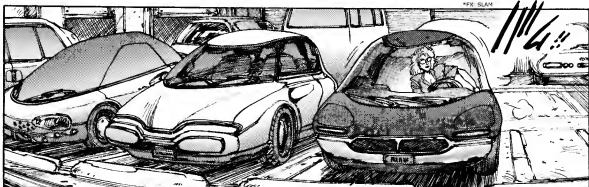
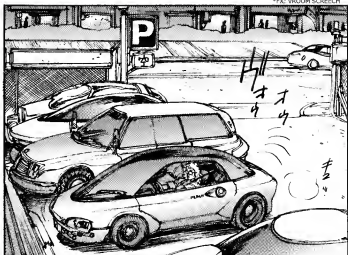
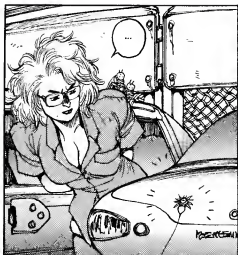
*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

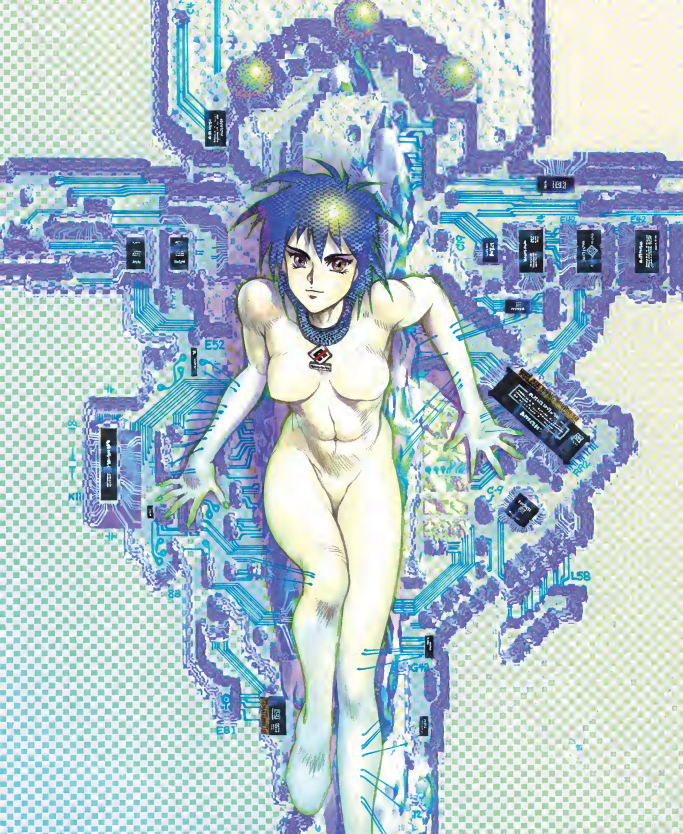
*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



*FX: VROOM



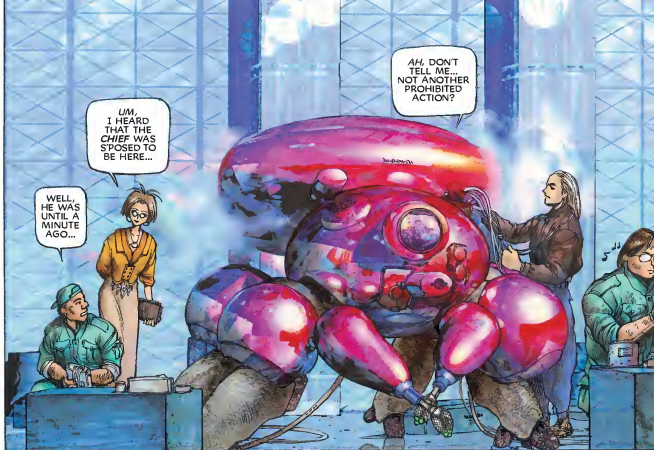




MINES OF MIND Part 1

05

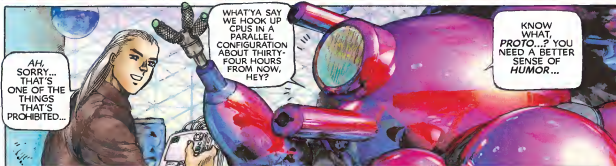
1995



UM,
I HEARD
THAT THE
CHIEF WAS
SPOSED TO
BE HERE...

WELL,
HE WAS
UNTIL A
MINUTE
AGO...

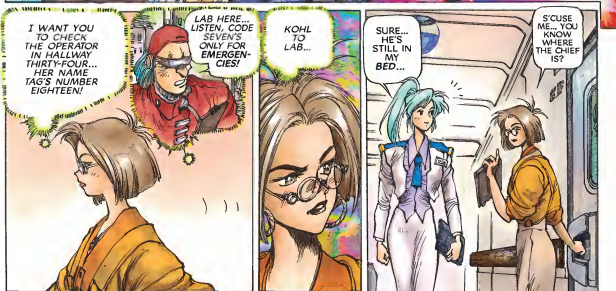
AH, DON'T
TELL ME...
NOT ANOTHER
PROHIBITED
ACTION?



AH,
SORRY...
THAT'S
ONE OF THE
THINGS
THAT'S
PROHIBITED...

WHATYA SAY
WE HOOK UP
CPUS IN A
PARALLEL
CONFIGURATION
ABOUT THIRTY-
FOUR HOURS
FROM NOW,
HEY?

KNOW
WHAT,
PROTO...? YOU
NEED A BETTER
SENSE OF
HUMOR...



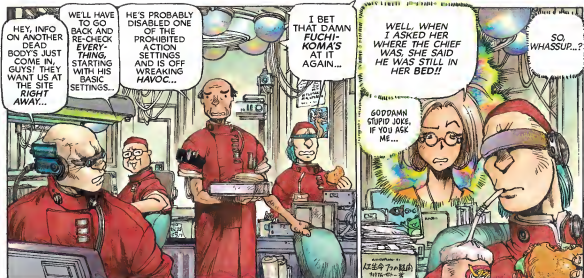
I WANT YOU
TO CHECK
THE OPERATOR
IN HALLWAY
THIRTY-FOUR...
HER NAME
TAG'S NUMBER
EIGHTEEN!

LAB HERE...
LISTEN, CODE
SEVEN'S
ONLY FOR
EMERGEN-
CIES!

KOHL
TO
LAB...

SURE...
HE'S
STILL IN MY
BED...

S'CUSE
ME... YOU
KNOW
WHERE
THE CHIEF
IS?



HEY, INFO ON ANOTHER DEAD BOOY'S JUST COME IN, GUYS! THEY WANT US AT THE SITE RIGHT AWAY...

WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK AND RE-CHECK EVERY-THING, STARTING WITH HIS BASIC SETTINGS...

HE'S PROBABLY DISABLED ONE OF THE PROHIBITED ACTION SETTINGS AND IS OFF WREAKING HAVOC...

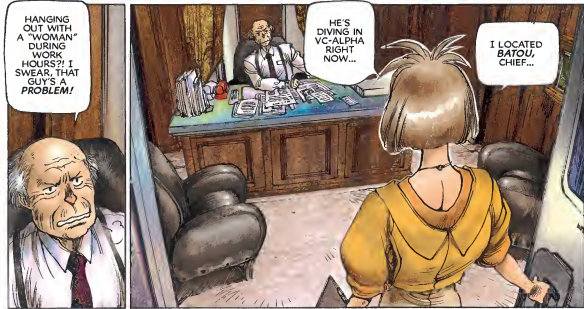
I BET THAT DAMN FUCHI-KOMA'S AT IT AGAIN...

WELL, WHEN I ASKED HER WHERE THE CHIEF WAS, SHE SAID HE WAS STILL IN HER BED!!

SO, WHASSUP...?

GODDAMN STUPID JOKE, IF YOU ASK ME...

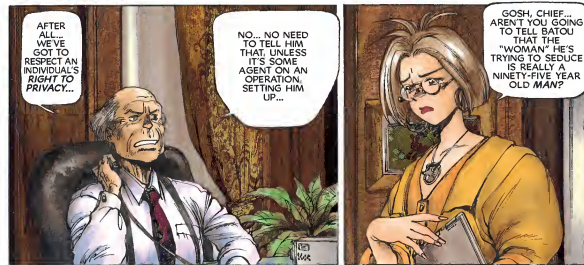
Source: SEVEN ISSUES WITH ARTIFICIAL LIFE BY WILLIAM SETO



HANGING OUT WITH A "WOMAN" DURING WORK HOURS?! I SWEAR, THAT GUY'S A PROBLEM!

HE'S DIVING IN VC-ALPHA RIGHT NOW...

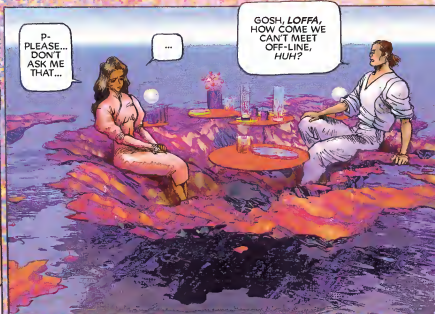
I LOCATED BATOU, CHIEF...



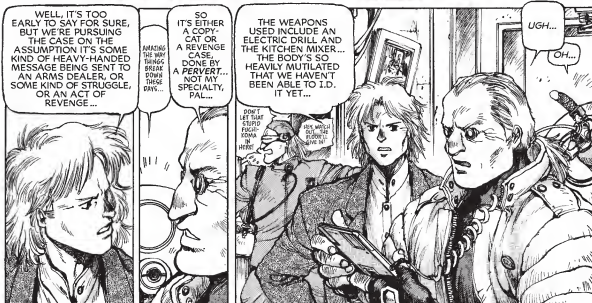
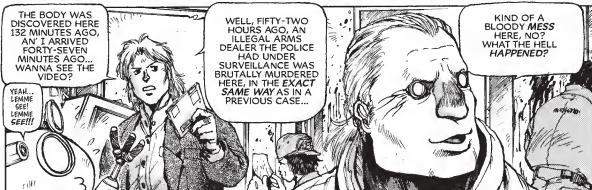
AFTER ALL... WE'VE GOT TO RESPECT AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY...

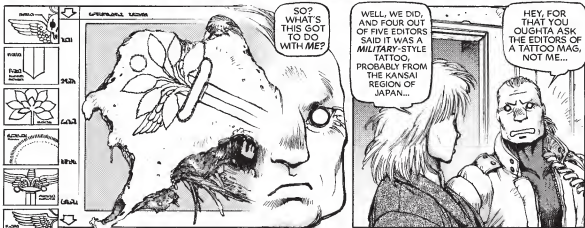
NO... NO NEED TO TELL HIM THAT, UNLESS IT'S SOME AGENT ON AN OPERATION. SETTING HIM UP...

GOSH, CHIEF... AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL BATOU THAT THE "WOMAN" HE'S TRYING TO SEDUCE IS REALLY A NINETY-FIVE YEAR OLD MAN?



The reference to "off-line" here means that Batou wants to meet the woman(?) outside of e-brain space, in the physical world. "On-line" means within e-brain space. Meeting off-line in the physical world doesn't mean that Batou would instantly know Loffa's real sex or age, but "she's" nonetheless afraid he'd figure it out from seeing the environment in which "she" lives, or from "her" friends...

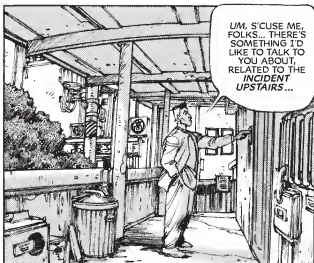




The "memory" that Batou is referring to here is e-brain memory and not the sort of memory we refer to in normal conversation. Dictionary information, language translation data, business maps, authentication passwords, and encrypted files needed to access the net—these are all stored near the transmission gears in his neck. They are a type of memory, but don't ask me what sort of media they're stored on, how much capacity it has, and whether the data's been backed up or not... Not all data is stored in the e-brain itself.



SHIT...
SEEMS
LIKE NO ONE
IN THE WHOLE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD'S
HOME!



UM, S'CUSE ME,
FOLKS... THERE'S
SOMETHING I'D
LIKE TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT,
RELATED TO THE
INCIDENT
UPSTAIRS...



WHA?!



LET ME SEE
WHAT I CAN
FIND OUT
FROM AN
ACQUAINTANCE
OF MINE...

AGH...



WHO KNOWS...?
MAYBE THEY
WERE ATTACHED
TO THE SAME
MILITARY UNIT
OR VISITED THE
SAME TATTOO
PARLOR...

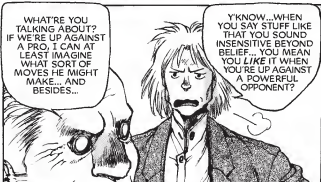
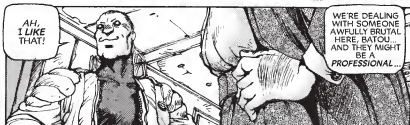
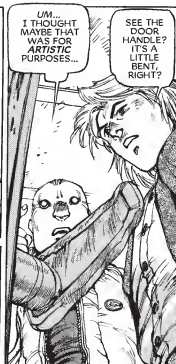
SO I REALLY
DON'T KNOW...
COULD BE A
CUSTOM TATTOO
OR ONE HE DID
HIMSELF...

AH, BLAST IT.
I CAN'T MAKE
IT OUT THE
FRONT
DOOR...

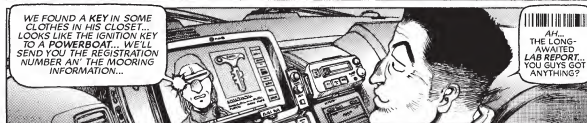
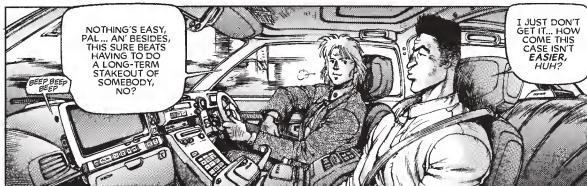
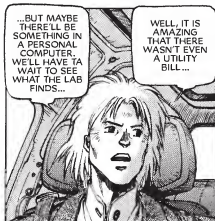


THERE'S ONE
OTHER THING
ABOUT THIS CASE
YOU'LL PROBABLY
FIND INTERESTING,
BATOU...

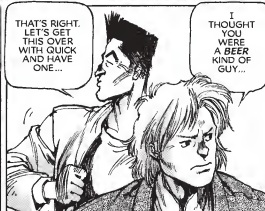
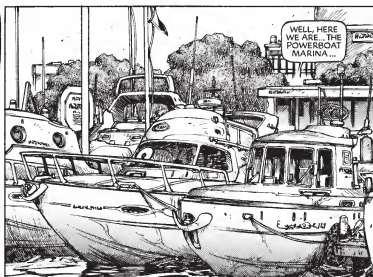
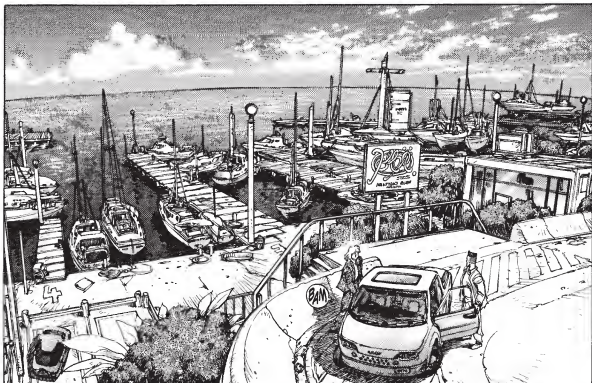
WELL, THE
TATTOO WAS THE
SECOND THING
WE FOUND IN
COMMON WITH
THE MURDER CASE
THAT HAPPENED
FIFTY-TWO
HOURS AGO.

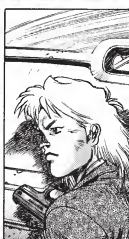
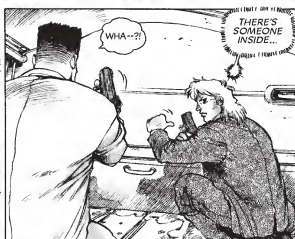
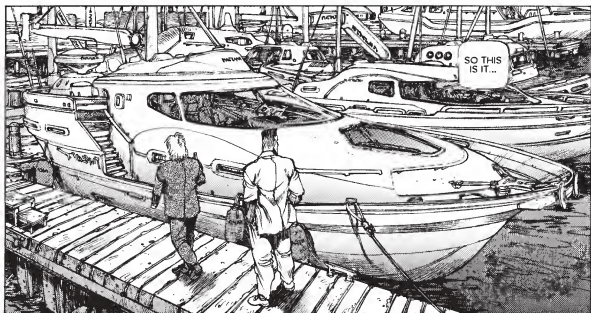


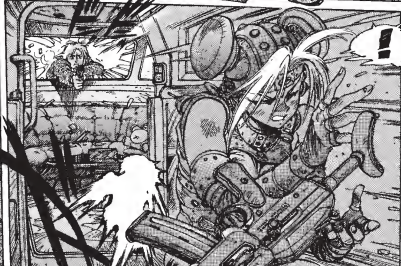
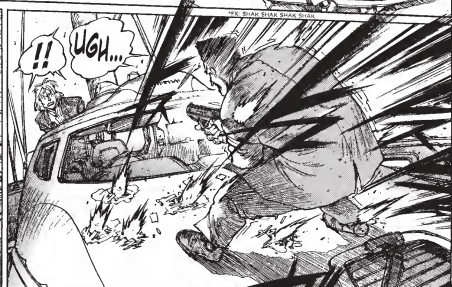
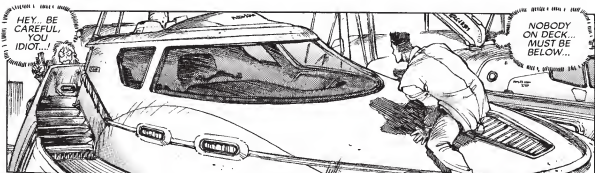
Illegally high-powered cyborgs are often made with a lot of muscle, so they often look rather conspicuous. In the *GITS 1.5* world, it's highly unlikely that any individual would have exclusive access to an advanced material or technology. In other words, whatever one person can obtain is also something that someone else can obtain... In reality, the cyborg in this case probably just over-twisted the door handle in his hurry to enter the room... Of course, the neighbors probably should have heard what was going on...

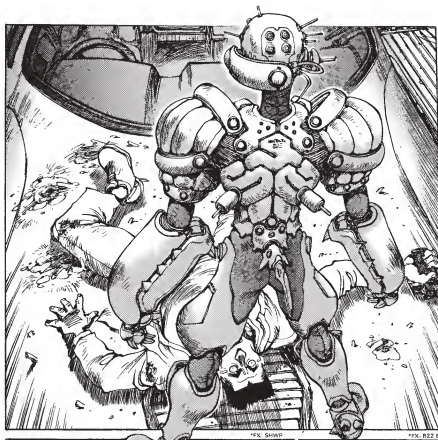


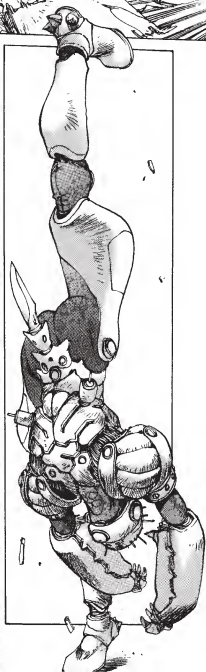
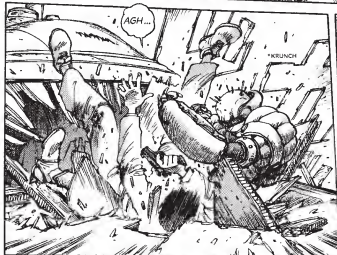
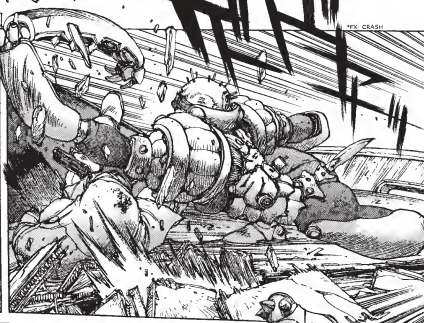
In this story, though people still talk about the "network age," wide disparities remain in the population between those who have information and those who don't or between those who can or cannot access the net. The role of professional net searchers or specialist research companies thus becomes extremely important. Azuma was ultimately able to easily estimate the utility bill of the dead man because he knew the address and could simply ask the gas, electricity, and telecommunications companies in the area.

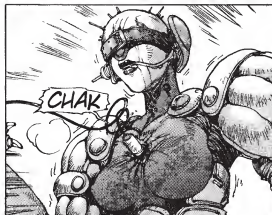
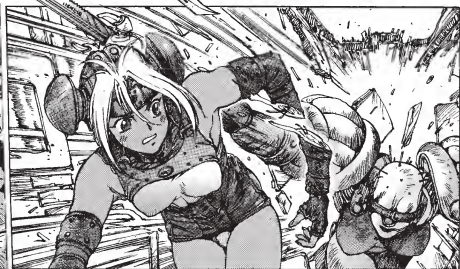
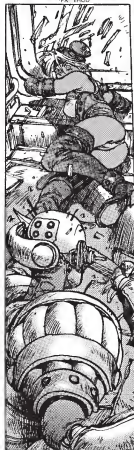


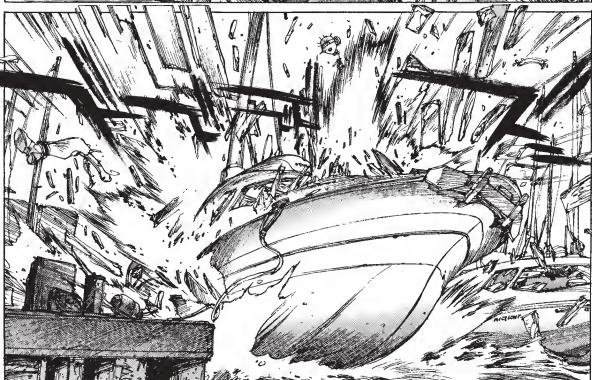
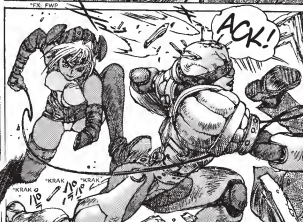
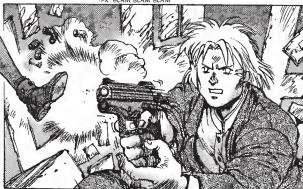
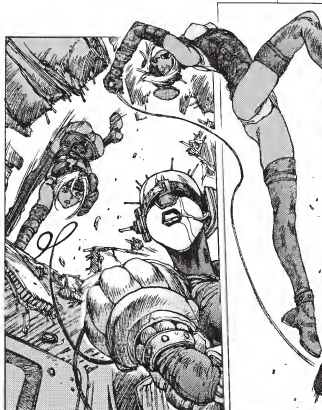


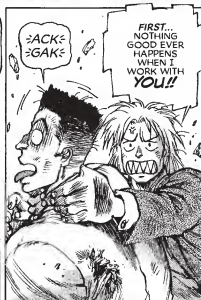
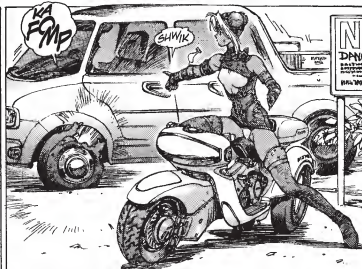
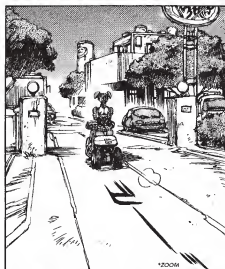








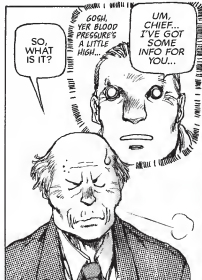






HOW CAN YOU
CALL YOURSELVES
PROFESSIONALS?
WHAT THE HELL'VE
YOU BEEN DOING
ALL THIS TRAINING
FOR?!!

YOU WHAT?!!
TWO OF YOU,
AND YOU
COULDN'T BRING
IN A COUPLE OF
CYBORGS?!



SO,
WHAT
IS IT?

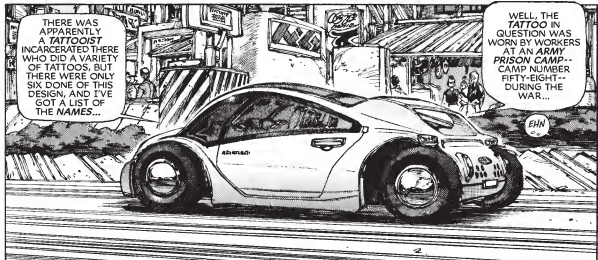
GOSH,
YER BLOOD
PRESSURE'S
A LITTLE
HIGH...

UM,
CHIEF...
I'VE GOT
SOME
INFO FOR
YOU...



AND DON'T
BOTHR TO
COME BACK
UNTIL YOU GET
SOME
ANSWERS!

AFTER YOU'VE
RAISED THE REMAINS
OF THE BOAT AND
THE CYBORG FROM
THE MARINA, DO
A **THOROUGH**
INVESTIGATION!



THERE WAS
APPARENTLY
A **TATTOOIST**
INCARCERATED THERE
WHO DID A VARIETY
OF TATTOOS, BUT
THERE WERE ONLY
SIX DONE OF THIS
DESIGN, AND I'VE
GOT A LIST OF
THE NAMES...

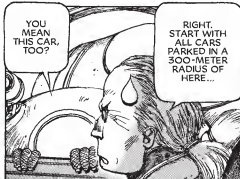
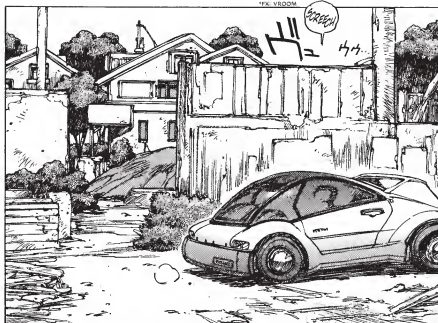
WELL, THE
TATTOO IN
QUESTION WAS
WORN BY WORKERS
AT AN **ARMY**
PRISON CAMP--
CAMP NUMBER
FIFTY-EIGHT--
DURING THE
WAR...

EHN



BOMA AN
PROTO'RE ON
THE CASE RIGHT
NOW, TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT IF
ANYONE HAD ANY
PARTICULAR
GRUDGE
AGAINST 'EM...

TWO OF 'EM ARE IN THE
LAB MORGUE...ONE DIED OF
DISEASE...TWO ARE STILL IN
THE MILITARY... I'M TRYING
TO LOCATE THE ADDRESS
OF THE LAST ONE...



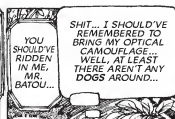
Re: panel three—Batau has recently taken to wearing his seatbelt while driving, but he still doesn't lock his car door. This isn't a Special Forces procedure, but something Batau just does on his own... Of course, he unlocks his seatbelt before and after any gunfights, and he doesn't wear his seatbelt when he's guarding VIPs, either. In the final panels on the page, Batau is visually checking to make sure no one is in the house or in the vehicle in front of it. But of course, he still could be spotted anyway...



WELL, I WANT YOU TO PULL ALL THE ENGINE SPARK PLUGS OUT HALFWAY, THEN!!

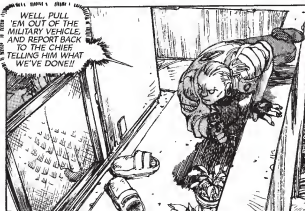
WITH THE MILITARY?!

UM, THERE ARE SIX SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES IN THE AREA, AND THREE OF THEM ARE ARMED... ONE IS SECRETLY REGISTERED WITH THE MILITARY...



YOU SHOULD'VE RIDDEN IN ME, MR. BATOU...

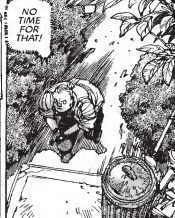
SHIT... I SHOULD'VE REMEMBERED TO BRING MY OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE... WELL, AT LEAST THERE AREN'T ANY DOGS AROUND...



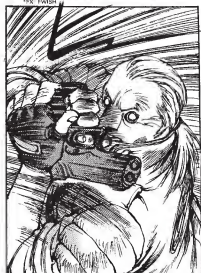
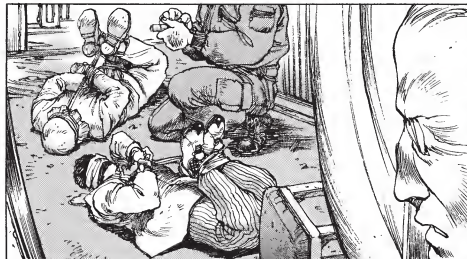
WELL, PULL 'EM OUT OF THE MILITARY VEHICLE AND REPORT BACK TO THE CHIEF TELLING HIM WHAT WE'VE DONE!!



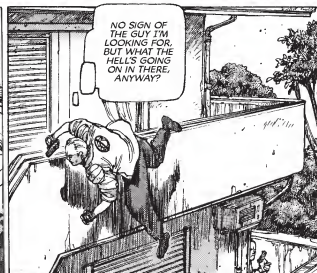
UM... EXCEPT FOR THE ONE REGISTERED TO THE MILITARY, ALL THE OTHER VEHICLES HAVE ALREADY HAD THEIR PLUGS REMOVED. MR. BATOU, SIR...



NO TIME FOR THAT!

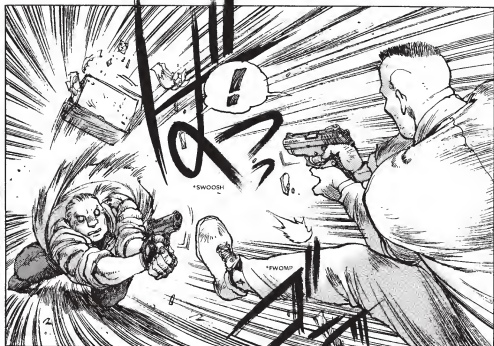


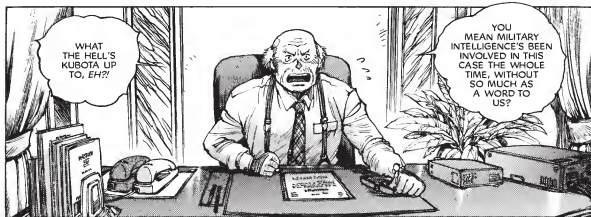
WHAT THE...?!



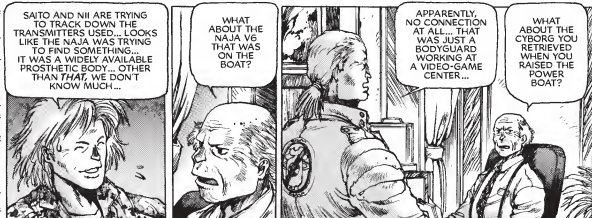
NO SIGN OF THE GUY I'M LOOKING FOR, BUT WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON IN THERE, ANYWAY?

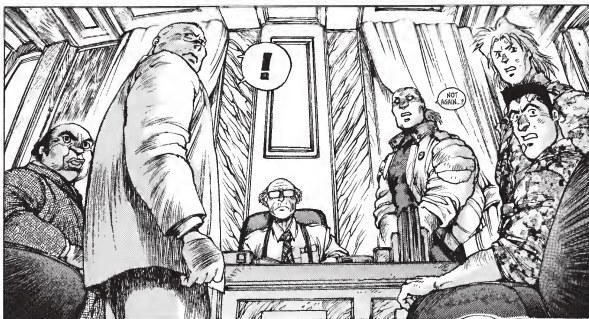
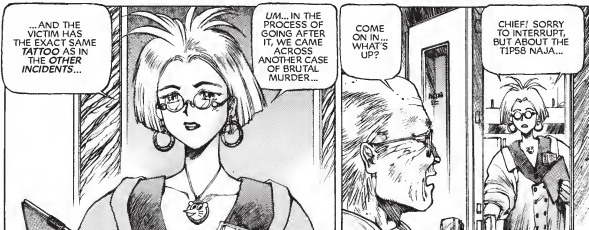






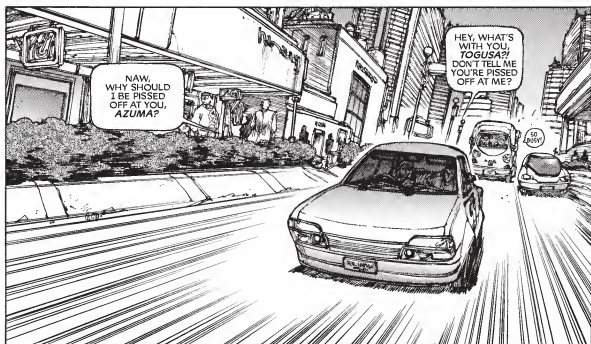
One obviously can't use a secret code number or encryption system when communicating with someone, unless that someone is party to the code or there have been some prior agreement on the code being used (we're not talking about code cracking here). To prevent electronic communications from being intercepted or overheard, the best thing would actually be to physically meet the party with whom one is trying to communicate, but the time of course... In the case, the transmitters were in the hands of port, and attached to the most suspicious of the vehicles after their plates and owner registrations had been checked. I just haven't drawn the scenes showing the vehicles being targeted...

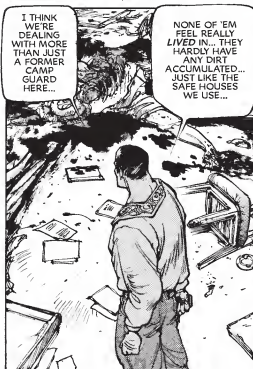
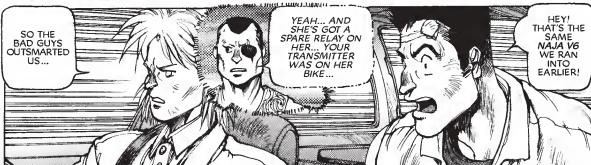




TO BE CONTINUED







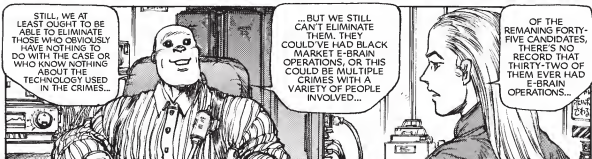


WELL, THESE
TRAINEES
ARE ALL
SPECIALLY
SELECTED...

OF COURSE, I DO
APPRECIATE THE
FACT THAT WE'VE
NARROWED THINGS
DOWN TO TWELVE
MISSING, AND
FORTY-FIVE
OTHERS...

BUT THAT'S
JUST A LIST FROM
CAMP FIFTY-EIGHT,
MINUS THE NAMES
OF THOSE DEAD,
HOSPITALIZED,
AND ON A FIXED
INCOME, NO?

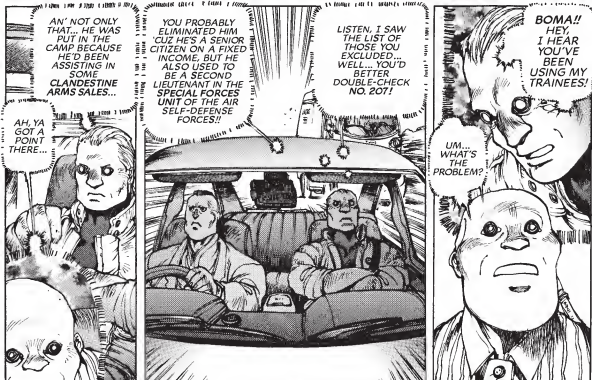
SOME OF THE
INFO WE ASKED
THE TRAINEES TO
GET JUST CAME
IN... PRETTY
USEFUL, NO?



STILL, WE AT
LEAST OUGHT TO BE
ABLE TO ELIMINATE
THOSE WHO OBVIOUSLY
HAVE NOTHING TO
DO WITH THE CASE OR
WHO KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT THE
TECHNOLOGY USED
IN THE CRIMES...

...BUT WE STILL
CAN'T ELIMINATE
THEM. THEY
COULD'VE HAD BLACK
MARKET E-BRAIN
OPERATIONS, OR THIS
COULD BE MULTIPLE
CRIMES WITH A
VARIETY OF PEOPLE
INVOLVED...

OF THE
REMANING FORTY-FIVE
CANDIDATES,
THERE'S NO
RECORD THAT
THIRTY-TWO OF
THEM EVER HAD
E-BRAIN
OPERATIONS...



AN' NOT ONLY
THAT... HE WAS
PUT IN THE
CAMP BECAUSE
HE'D BEEN
ASSISTING IN
SOME
CLANDESTINE
ARMS SALES...

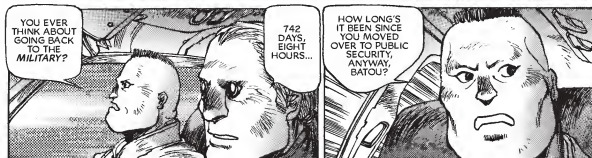
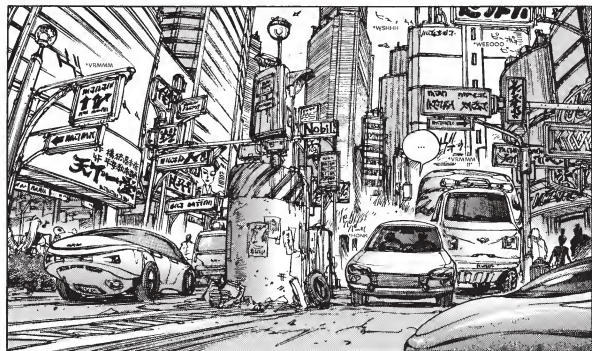
AH, YA
GOT A
POINT
THERE...

YOU PROBABLY
ELIMINATED HIM
'CUZ HE'S A SENIOR
CITIZEN ON A FIXED
INCOME, BUT HE
ALSO USED TO
BE A SECOND
LIEUTENANT IN THE
SPECIAL FORCES
UNIT OF THE
SELF-DEFENSE
FORCES!!

LISTEN, I SAW
THE LIST OF
THOSE YOU
EXCLUDED...
WELL... YOU'D
BETTER
DOUBLE-CHECK
NO. 207!

BOMA!!
HEY,
I HEAR
YOU'VE
BEEN
USING MY
TRAINEES!

UM...
WHAT'S
THE
PROBLEM?





WHAT'S
THE GOOD
OF ALWAYS
FIGHTING
AGAINST STUPID
CRIMINALS
AND LAWS,
ANYWAY?

I MEAN, THE
ONLY THING
GUYS LIKE YOU
AND ME ARE
REALLY GOOD
AT IS KILLING
PEOPLE,
RIGHT?

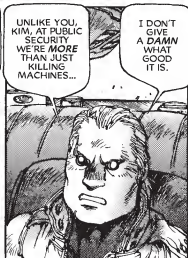


WHO'S
INTERESTED IN
EVOLVING,
ANYWAY?

YOU
MILITARY
GUYS NEVER
DO EVOLVE,
DO YOU?

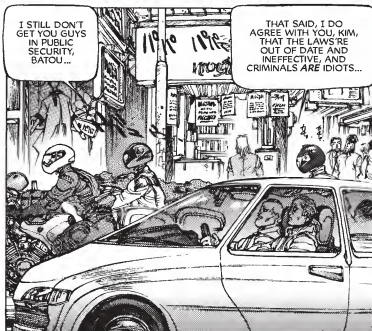


HEY, DON'T GET
MORALISTIC ON
ME, BATOU...
WE'RE BOTH JUST
PROFESSIONAL
KILLERS, AFTER
ALL...



UNLIKE YOU,
KIM, AT PUBLIC
SECURITY
WE'RE MORE
THAN JUST
KILLING
MACHINES...

I DON'T
GIVE
A DAMN
WHAT
GOOD
IT IS.



I STILL DON'T
GET YOU GUYS
IN PUBLIC
SECURITY,
BATOU...

THAT SAID, I DO
AGREE WITH YOU, KIM,
THAT THE LAWS'RE
OUT OF DATE AND
INEFFECTIVE, AND
CRIMINALS ARE IDIOTS...



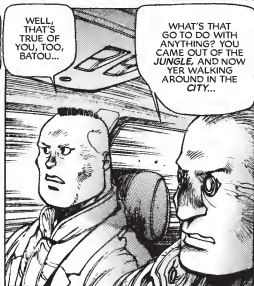
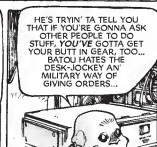
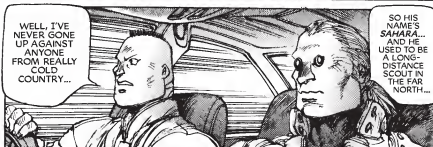
HEY, HOW
OFTEN ARE YOU
GONNA GET A
SUPERIOR YOU
CAN HAVE
100% FAITH IN,
ANYWAY,
HAH?



I MEAN, YOU GUYS IN
SECTION 9 ARE
SO FLIPPANT
ABOUT THE
ORDERS YOU
GET...



*Signs: 4 OPEN SEATS! TERARADE OPEN TODAY! SPECIAL OPENING COMMEMORATION!



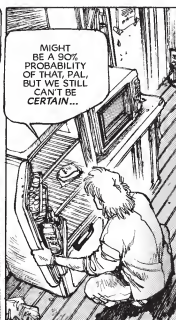




AH,
KNOCK
IT OFF,
TOGUSA...

Y'KNOW, YOU
REALLY DON'T FIT
THE NORMAL
PUBLIC SECURITY
AGENT MODE,
AZUMA...

HMPH!



MIGHT
BE A 90%
PROBABILITY
OF THAT, PAL,
BUT WE STILL
CAN'T BE
CERTAIN...



DON'T SEE WHY
WE CAN'T JUST
LEAVE THIS UP TO
THE LAB GUYS...
FOR SURE, THE
BODY'S THAT OF
THE POWERBOAT
OWNER...

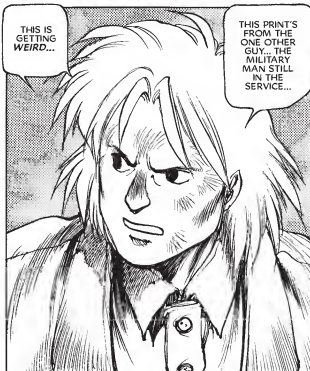


WHY WOULD
I WANT TO TRY
ODOR SENSING
IN A PLACE
THAT STINKS
THIS BAD...?

C'MON...
GIMME
A BREAK...



CAN'T YOU
AT LEAST
IDENTIFY SOME
GOOD ODORS?
FOR US THAT'LL
HELP SOLVE
THIS CASE?

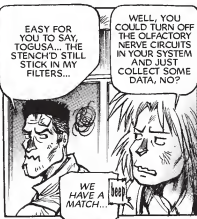


THIS IS
GETTING
WEIRD...

THIS PRINT'S
FROM THE
ONE OTHER
GUY... THE
MILITARY
MAN STILL
IN THE
SERVICE...



WASSUP?!



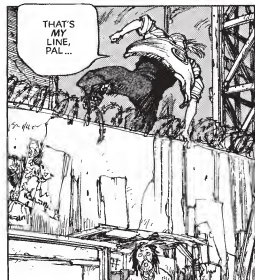
EASY FOR
YOU TO SAY,
TOGUSA... THE
STENCH'D STILL
STICK IN MY
FILTERS...

WELL, YOU
COULD TURN OFF
THE OLFACTORY
NERVE CIRCUITS
IN YOUR SYSTEM
AND JUST
COLLECT SOME
DATA, NO?

WE
HAVE A
MATCH...



WHAT
THE--?!





*FX. SAM BAM SAM BAM



FUCK OFF, ASSHOLE... I AIN'T GOT THE MONEY TA PAY ANY BILLS...

EHEM... TAKEDA-SAN!! YOU HOME?!

WONDER WHAT A LONG-RANGE SCOUT DOES...?

IF IT WERE ME, I'D HAVE SET BOOBY TRAPS THROUGHOUT THE APARTMENT AND GONE UNDERGROUND A LONG TIME AGO...



WHA? RAISE BENEFITS? YA MEAN YER NOT A BILL COLLECTOR? C'MON IN, THEN... C'MON IN...

HIC

UH, S'CUSE ME, SIR... I'M FROM THE COMMITTEE TO RAISE WELFARE BENEFITS...





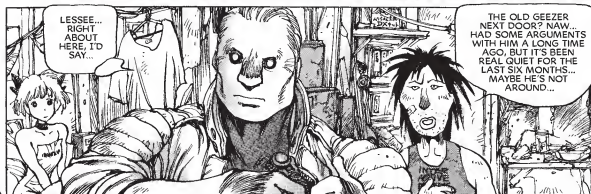
HM... THIN
WALLS HERE...
YOU EVER HAVE
ANY PROBLEMS
WITH YOUR
NEIGHBORS?

TAP
TAP



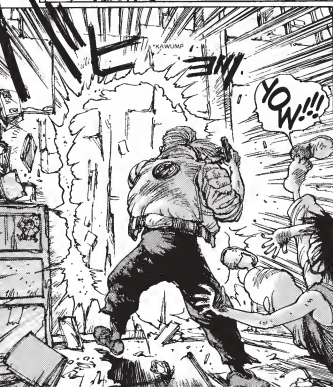
WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
AN' BESIDES,
WHERE'RE MY
BENEFITS?..
Y'KNOW... THE
FREE STUFF...!

WELL, WELL,
WHAT HAVE
WE HERE? YOUR
PLACE IS FILTHIER
THAN THE
DUMPSTERS
OUTSIDE, MY
FRIEND...

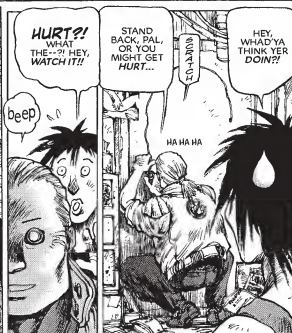


LESSEE...
RIGHT
ABOUT
HERE, I'D
SAY...

THE OLD GEEZER
NEXT DOOR? NAW...
HAD SOME ARGUMENTS
WITH HIM A LONG TIME
AGO, BUT IT'S BEEN
REAL QUIET FOR THE
LAST SIX MONTHS...
MAYBE HE'S NOT
AROUND...



YO W!!!



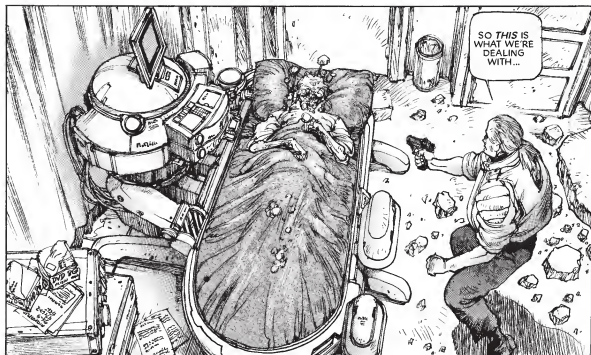
HURT?!
WHAT
THE--?! HEY,
WATCH IT!!

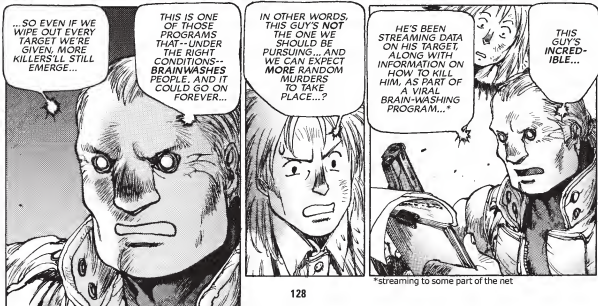
STAND
BACK, PAL,
OR YOU
MIGHT GET
HURT...

HEY,
WHADYA
THINK YER
DOIN?!

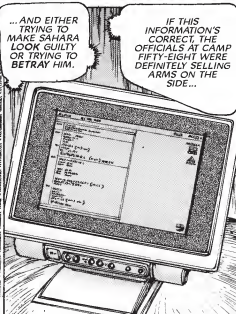
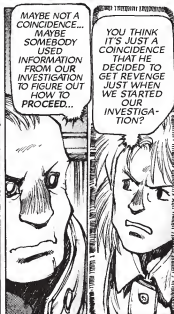
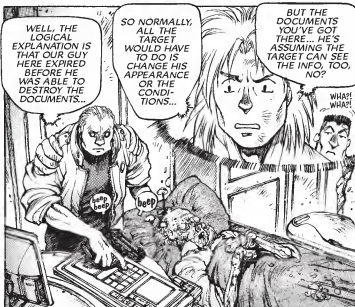
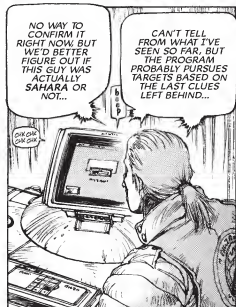
HA HA HA

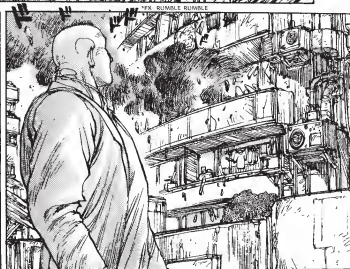
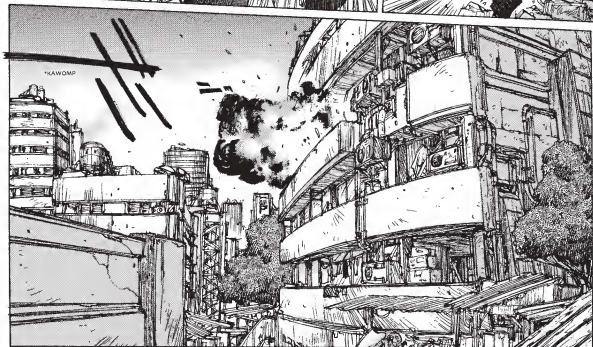


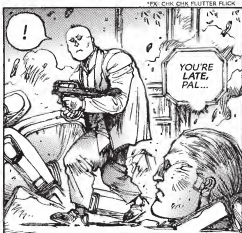
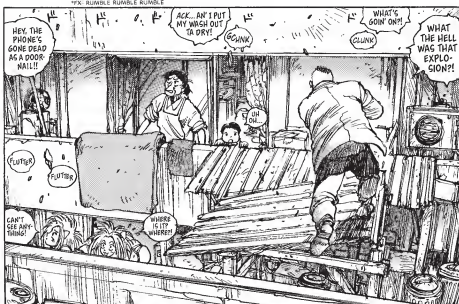


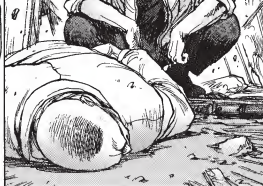
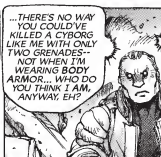


*streaming to some part of the net

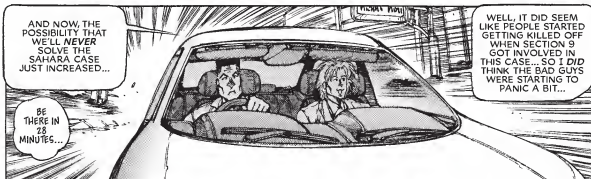








Batou took advantage of the fact that Kim was coming (with all sensors on) to take care of the site (to get rid of any evidence and administer the coup de grace to Batou), and he thus infiltrated Kim's e-brain. When Batou did so, instead of sending an image of himself, wounded, into Kim's field of vision, he sent the image directly into Kim's brain. "Batou's head" is therefore what Kim really perceived. It was probably too hard for Batou to instantly put together a complete image of himself, so he just used the head...





SO
NITO
WAS...



YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT
THE
GHOST OF
SAHARA?



MAYBE
NOT
SUCH
GOOD
THING...

SO WE HAD
FOXES MINDING
THE CHICKEN COOP,
EH...? NO WONDER
WE COULDN'T
STOP THE ARMS
DEALING... GOOD
THING I ASKED
YOU TO GET
INVOLVED,
ARAMAKI...



...SO I'LL
THINK IT
OVER AND
GET BACK
TO YOU,
ARAMAKI.

WELL, IN MY
JOB I'VE GOT TO
MAINTAIN MY ABILITY
TO INCREASE THE
NUMBER OF PEOPLE
WE SACRIFICE,
BUT DO IT
EFFICIENTLY...



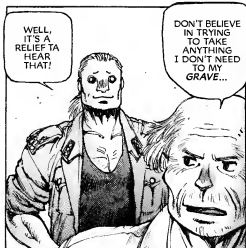
JUST THINK
OF IT AS
SPECIAL
TRAINING,
FOR PEOPLE
ON LOAN
TO US...

YOU
ASKING
ME FOR
MORE
MAN-
POWER,
ARAMAKI?



WE'LL HAVE TO
TAKE A VARIETY OF
COUNTERMEASURES
AND DO PERIODIC
INVESTIGATIONS USING
DECOYS, BUT I DON'T
WANT TO SACRIFICE
ANY MORE
PEOPLE...





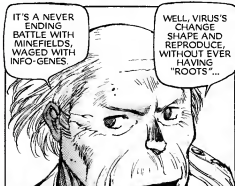
WELL,
IT'S A
RELIEF TA
HEAR
THAT!

DON'T BELIEVE
IN TRYING
TO TAKE
ANYTHING
I DON'T NEED
TO MY
GRAVE...



PERSONALLY,
I SOLD MY
UNIFORM AND
ALL MY MEDALS
TO A SURPLUS
STORE YEARS
AGO.

IT GETS
THAT WAY
'CUZ YOU'RE
TOO
ATTACHED
TO IT,
BATOU...



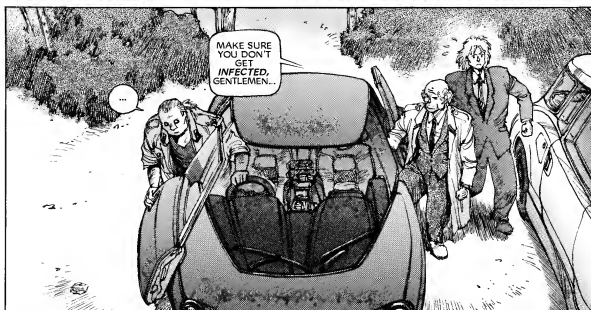
IT'S A NEVER
ENDING
BATTLE WITH
MINEFIELDS,
WAGED WITH
INFO-GENES

WELL, VIRUS'S
CHANGE
SHAPE AND
REPRODUCE,
WITHOUT EVER
HAVING
"ROOTS"...



YEAH... IF WE
DON'T CUT
THIS OFF AT
THE ROOTS,
THERE'LL JUST
BE MORE OF
'EM...

BUT EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT,
WE'VE GOT TO
TAKE SAHARA'S
SUCCESSOR INTO
CUSTODY AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE...



MAKE SURE
YOU DON'T
GET
INFECTED,
GENTLEMEN...

IT JUST FLEW OFF...
LIKE THIS...
POOF...

UM...
SOMEWHERE
IN CENTRAL
AMERICA,
I THINK...



"EHEH"?
WHADDYAMEAN?!
WHERE'D YOU SEND
THAT DAMNED
PROGRAM I JUST
WROTE, ANYWAY?

POOF...

EHEH...



END

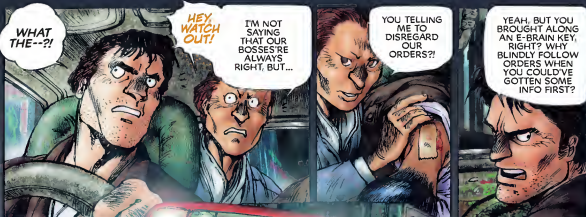
LOST PAST

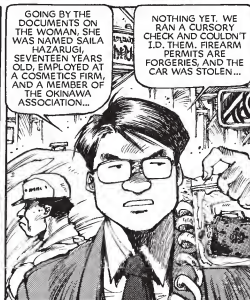
1996

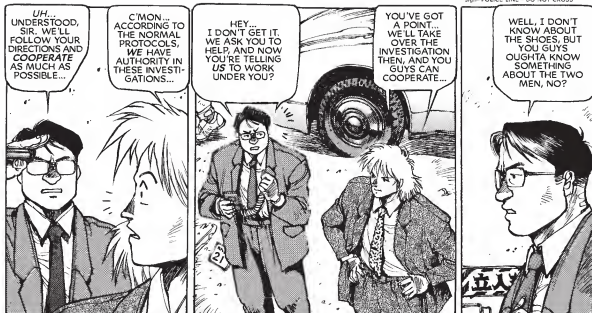


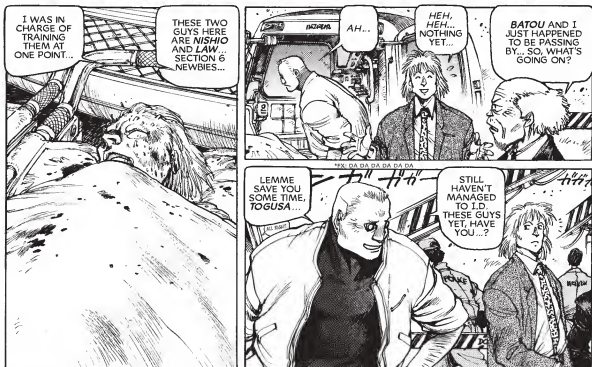
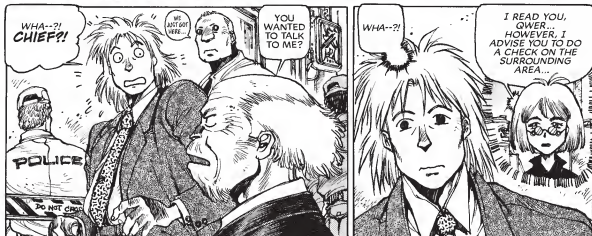




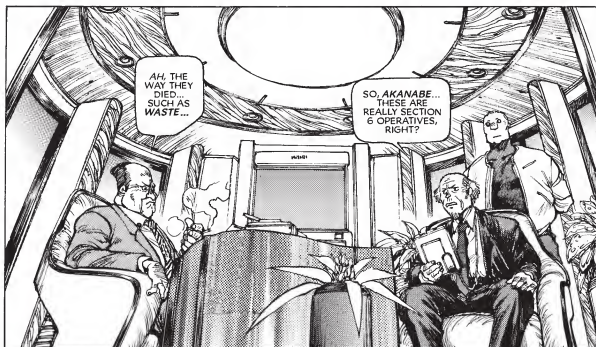








Section 6 of Public Security is also known as the foreign ministry's "treaty deliberation section" and is mainly responsible for security outside of Japan. During the "puppeteer" incident in *Ghost in the Shell*, Section 6 was involved in various behind-the-scenes machinations and came into conflict with Section 9...



AH, THE WAY THEY DIED... SUCH AS WASTE...

SO, AKANABE... THESE ARE REALLY SECTION 6 OPERATIVES, RIGHT?



SO I'D LIKE AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT THEY WERE DOING ON OUR TURF AND WHY THEY SHOT THE GIRL...

WELL, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, BOTH MEN WERE REALLY RUNNING SECURITY FOR MR. FUKATANI, FORMERLY THE HEAD OF THE ASIA DEPARTMENT, RIGHT?



BUT WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION IN YET...

CAN YOU IMAGINE? AN AUTO ACCIDENT...



SO, BASICALLY, YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CRIME SCENE, RIGHT?



WE WANTED TO BRING HER IN, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT...

WELL...

THE WOMAN WAS A TERRORIST, OUT TO GET FUKATANI...

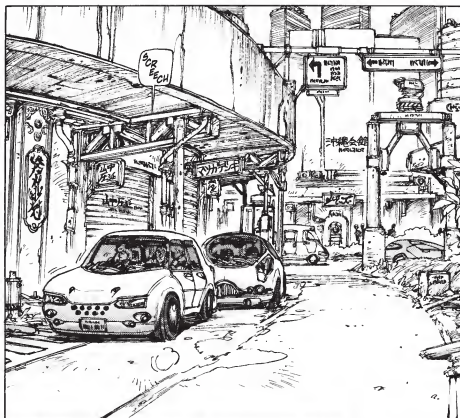


EVEN KILLING PEOPLE?

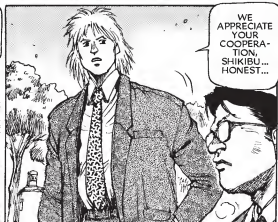
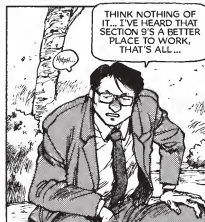
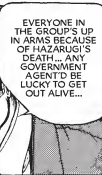
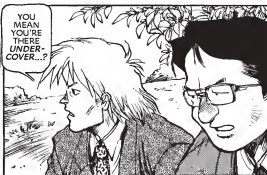
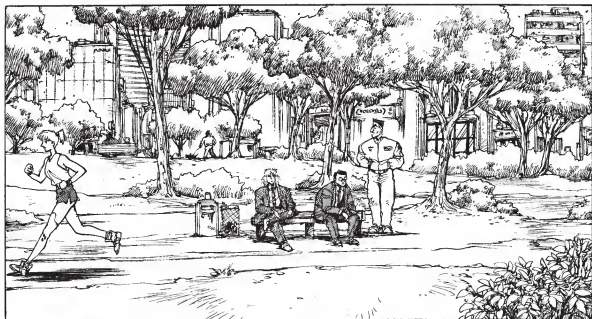


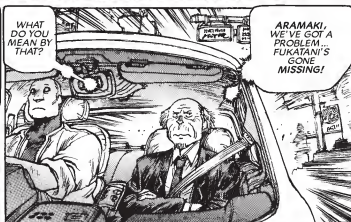
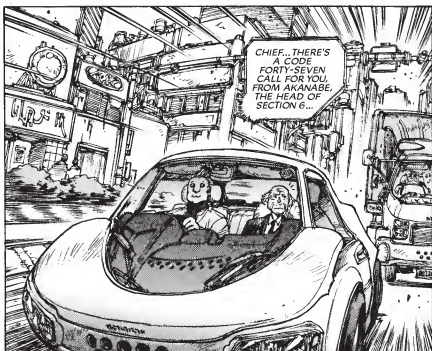
WELL, FUKATANI HASN'T SPENT MUCH TIME IN-COUNTRY RECENTLY, SO SECTION 6 HAS JUST CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR HIM WHEN HE IS HERE...

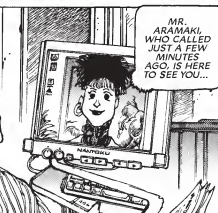












During the era in which this story is set, U.S. forces in the Far East are no longer mainly based in Japan and a unified Korea (I know this recommendation isn't proper, but forgive me; it's the only thing I could come up with). U.S. forces to a particular area is probably impossible, but we are dealing with a manga, after all, so please humor me. I do wish something could be done about this issue, though. What probably can be done is to have U.S. forces disperse off Japan's main islands, and build up the defense capabilities of the Japanese self-defense forces. But that's a scary idea in and of itself... Ah, excuse the political diversion...

AND THERE'S ANOTHER
ISSUE. THE OKINAWA
ASSOCIATION'S LEGAL SUITS
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT
ALSO INCLUDE REPARATIONS
FROM CHINA, BUT THE
TIMING'S BAD FOR US. WHAT
USED TO BE TAIWAN'S
NOT GOING TO STAND
IDLY BY...

IT'S LIKE THIS...THE "KONRON"
PROJECT'S SCHEDULED TO BE
SIGNED AT THE END OF THE MONTH.
IT'S A PROJECT IN WHICH NINE
DIFFERENT NATIONS ARE JOINTLY
INVESTING IN AN AREA SOUTH OF
THE OKINAWAN ATOLL TO
CREATE A FREE TRADE
ZONE, BUT THE
PROJECT'S NOT
GOING WELL...

AHH...
WELL, MAYBE
THERE'S AN
EMOTIONAL
COMPONENT?

WHAT'S
THAT GOT
TO DO
WITH THE
OKINAWA
ASSOCIATION?

I CAN'T IMAGINE
THAT THE OKINAWA
ASSOCIATION THINKS
CHINA'S CAPABLE
OF PAYING MUCH
IN THE WAY OF
REPARATIONS...

WE'D LIKE TO
ELIMINATE THE
DEFENSE INDUSTRY
ON KONRON, BUT IF
CHINA WALKS OUT ON
US IT WOULDN'T MAKE
MUCH SENSE...

WELL, LIKE
THEY SAY,
HISTORY
HAS BOTH
FACTUAL AND
EMOTIONAL
COMPONENTS...

COURSE,
I'M SURE THEY
WOULDN'T WALK
OUT...

LET ME
KNOW IF
ANYTHING NEW
COMES UP,
ARAMAKI... I'D
APPRECIATE
IT...

VERY WELL...

I GUESS I'LL
GET THE
DETAILS IN SOME
MATERIALS
FROM THE
SECRETARY...
I'LL SEE YOU
LATER...

IT'S ME,
PROTO... I'M
COMING
IN...



UM... NO, IT
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN OVER
HERE... AN' I
THINK THERE
WERE TWO
DRAWERS
OPEN...



SO YOU'RE
SAYING THAT
THEY CAME INTO
THE FOYER
WHILE SHE
WAS HERE,
RIGHT?



W-WHAT'RE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?! I'M
SUPPOSED TO CLEAN
THE PLACE UP, THAT'S
MY JOB!



LISTEN, LADY...
YOU AWARE THAT
WHAT YOU DID
MAKES YOU AN
ACCOMPLICE TO
A CRIME???

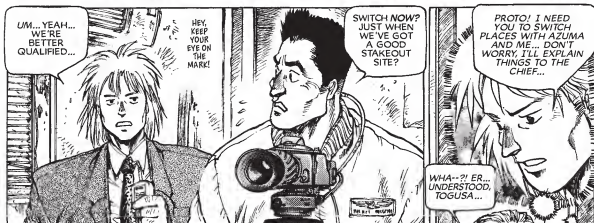
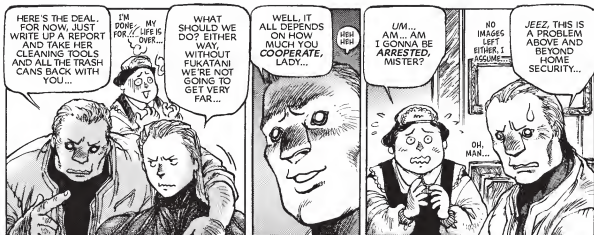


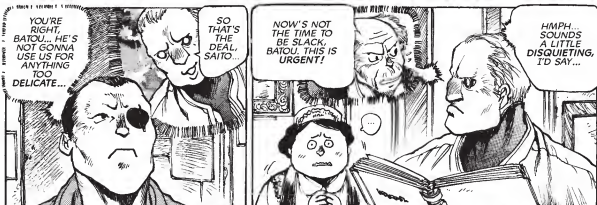
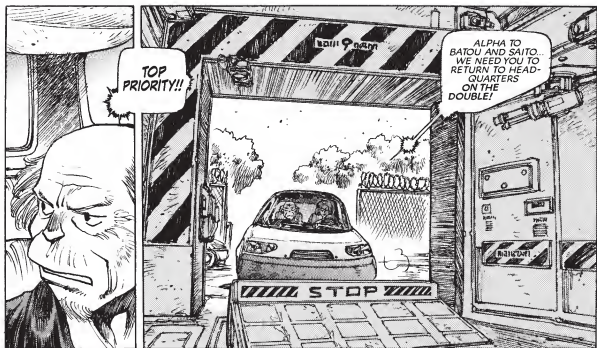
YEAH... THE
PLACE WAS
APPARENTLY
ALREADY
CLEANED UP...



HEY,
PROTO,
DO I HEAR
WHAT I
THINK I'M
HEARING?









DURING THE SHORT DURATION OF ITS OPERATION, AN EXPERIMENTAL CAMERA ABOUT A CLICK AWAY CAUGHT THIS IMAGE...

OKAY... WE'VE GOT SOME IMAGES ACCIDENTALLY PICKED UP TWENTY-TWO MINUTES AGO BY THE SURVEILLANCE NETWORK IN COASTAL ZONE Q46.



NOT PERSONALLY... BUT HE'S A WORLD-FAMOUS ACE SNIPER IN THE CHINESE ARMY...

YOU KNOW THE GUY, SAITO?

TH-THAT'S YUEN SHOHAI!



WHOOPS... HEH HEH...

AN' HE'S HERE IN JAPAN SIGHTSEEING, YA?

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN 1999, THE TAIWANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN 2002, AND AT LEAST FIVE MORE MAJOR HARD-TO-PULL-OFF JOBS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO HIM...

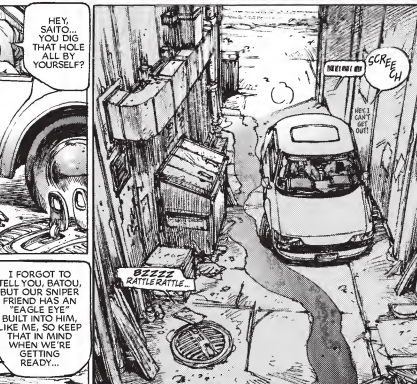
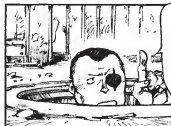
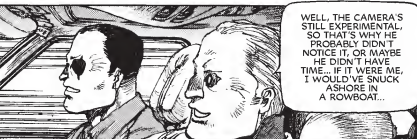
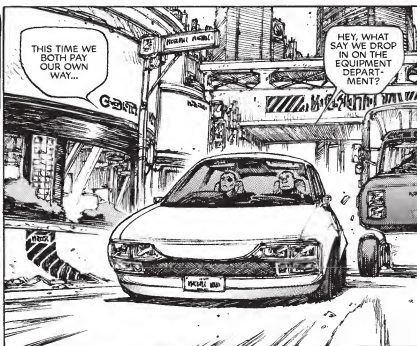


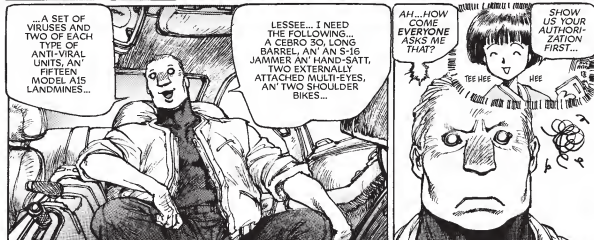
IF ANY DIPLOMATIC ISSUES COME OUT OF THIS, YOU HANDLE 'EM, OKAY...?

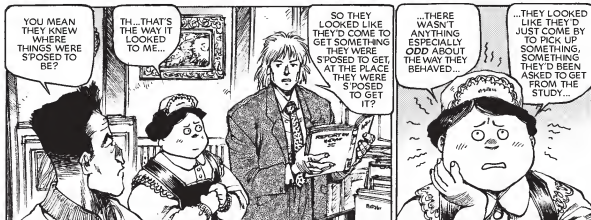
...BUT I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO STAY ON TOP OF HIM AND TAKE CARE OF HIM IF ANYTHING HAPPENS...

WE DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S HERE OR IF THERE'S ANY CONNECTION TO OTHER CASES...

The key factor in identification here is not the new surveillance camera itself. It's that when snipers of this ilk are in an open area, they tend to visually scout out every possible target in range (or let's assume so, anyway). The staff monitoring the network identified the sniper by remotely operating the surveillance camera and noting that the man seemed to be casing something and was not equipped or acting in the fashion of a normal seaside worker.







W...
WHAT'D
YOU JUST
SAY?

NO DOUBT ABOUT
IT! BESIDES,
THAT'S WHAT
DR. FUKATANI
SAID ON THE
PHONE...

YOU SURE
IT WAS AN
MMD PACK?

OF COUSE,
THE STUFF
COULD'VE
BEEN TAKEN
FROM THE
CRASH SITE
ALREADY...

UM... 'CUZ
NOBODY
ASKED...

WHY
DIDN'T YOU
MENTION
THAT
EARLIER?

FUKATANI
TOLD YOU
TO DO
SOMETHING
ON THE
PHONE?

...OR HAZARUGI
HID THEM WHILE
RUNNING AWAY...
OR THE TWO MEN
HAD ALREADY
DESTROYED
THEM...

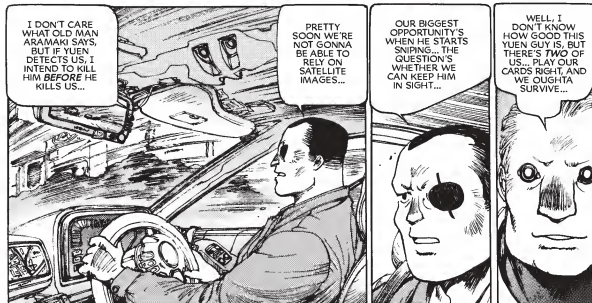
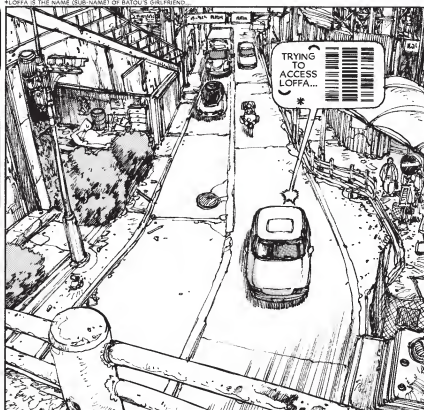
WE'VE GOTTA GIVE
THE MMD TOP PRIORITY
HERE, AZUMA... THERE
ARE FOUR POSSIBILITIES.
WE'LL EITHER FIND THEM
IN THE WRECK OF THE
CAR...OR THEY
WERE TAKEN
AWAY...

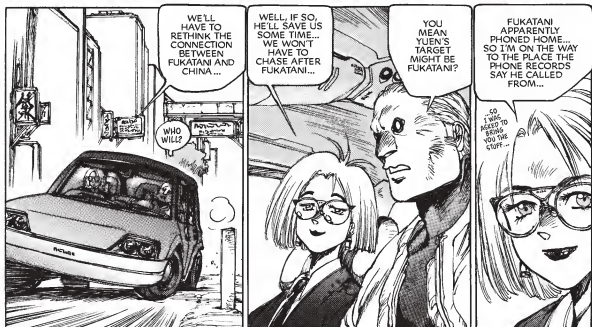
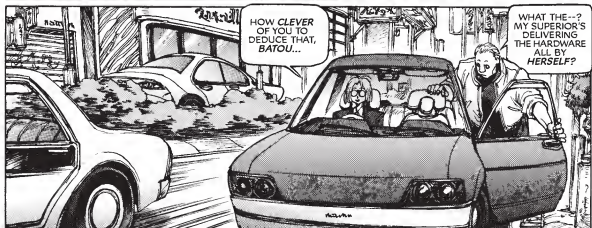
B... BUT WHY'D
AN OLD GUY
LIKE FUKATANI
RUN AWAY?
WHAT'S GOING
ON?!

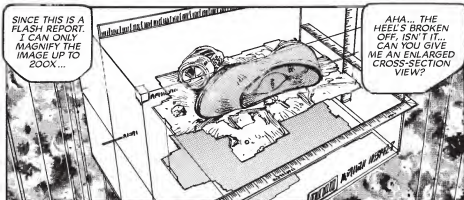
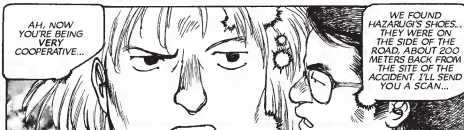
SO THIS
MEANS
FUKATANI'S
NOT MISSING...
AND COULD BE
A FUGITIVE!!

UM,
CORRECT TA
BOTHER
YOU, BUT
WHAT
ABOUT MY
QUESTIONS?

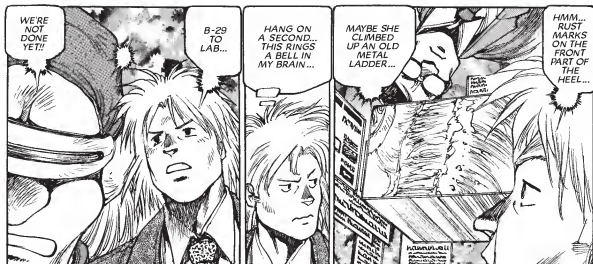
WE'VE GOTTA
RETRACE
HAZARUGI'S
LAST MOVE-
MENTS...

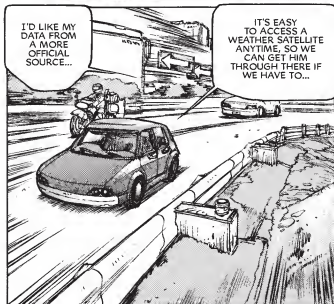
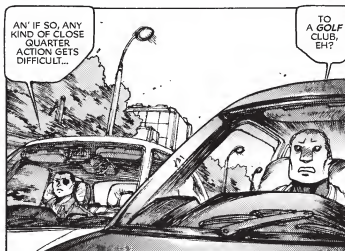
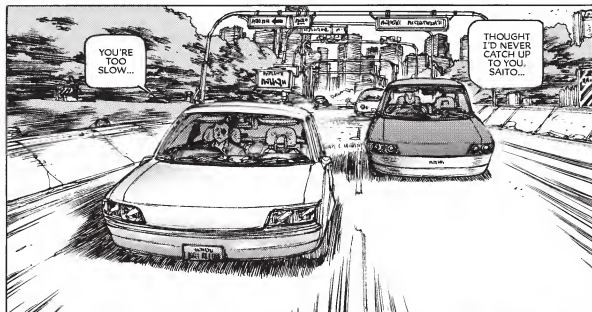


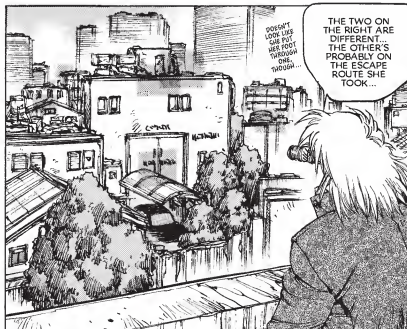




This is not data that has come out of the labs, but an image Shikibu has taken with his own portable scanner, so he can only magnify it two hundred times... By this time the actual item in question is probably in a vinyl bag of some sort, being transported to the labs. Investigators greatly appreciate such preliminary data, but its use is limited because it carries little legal weight. Investigators found the shoes as soon as police sniffer dogs appeared on the scene, and luckily for them there had been no street cleaning yet that day...







DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
SHE PUT
HER FOOT
THROUGH
ONE, THOUGH...

THE TWO ON
THE RIGHT ARE
DIFFERENT.
THE OTHER'S
PROBABLY ON
THE ESCAPE
ROUTE SHE
TOOK...



HEY, THERE'S
ANOTHER
LADDER OVER
THERE! WITH
WHAT LOOKS
LIKE SOME NEW
DAMAGE...



YAY...
THAT'S MY
STRONG
SUIT! BUT
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
TOGUSA?

DO ME
A FAVOR,
AZUMA, AND
DO A CAREFUL
CHECK OF THE
AREA WHERE
THE PRINTS
START GETTING
MIXED UP,
OKAY...?



Y'KNOW, IN LOOKING
AT THE PRINTS HER
PURSUERS LEFT, IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY TURNED BACK
TOWARDS THEIR CAR
AFTER FIRST LOOKING
THATAWAY...



ER...
THANKS,
BUT NO
THANKS...
HEH HEH...

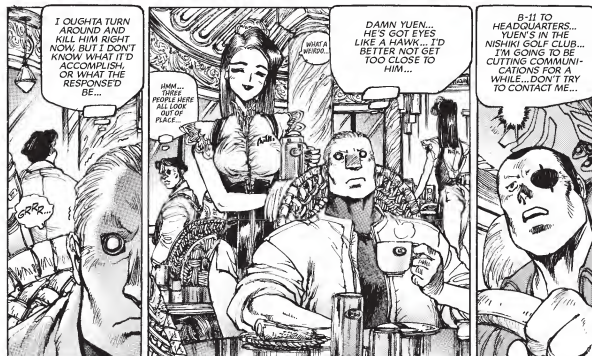
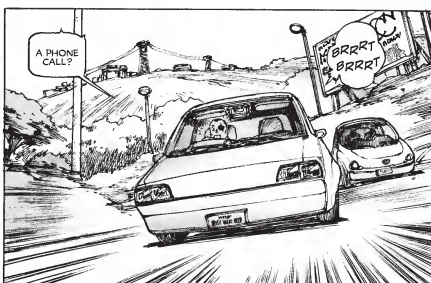
YOU WANNA
GO AFTER
THEM
YOURSELF,
THEN,
AZUMA?

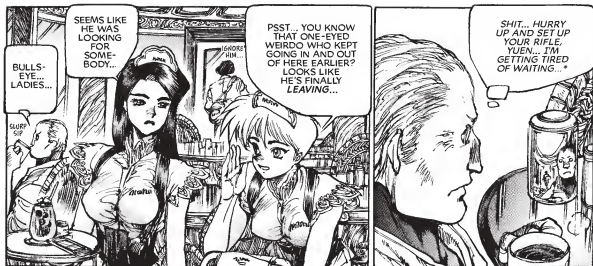


Y'KNOW WHAT?
YOU'VE GOT THAT
LOOK ON YOU...
LIKE WHEN YOU'RE
TAKING OVER THE
BEST PART OF
THE WHOLE
ASSIGNMENT...



I'M
GONNA
TRY TO
RETRACE
HER
PURSUERS'
PATH...



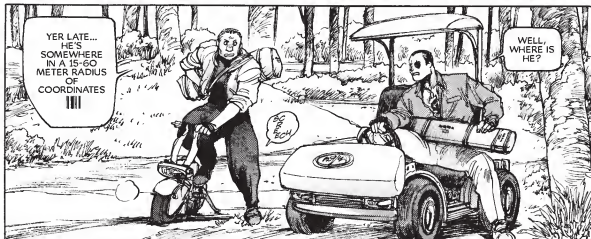


*This has nothing to do with Salto specifically, but Batou's hoping that he'll be able to figure out Yuen's real target if he can watch him set up his sniper rifle....

**Yuen looked back, right after crossing the fairway, to make sure he wasn't being tailed. That means Batou will be forced to go around the long way if he wants to continue to tail Yuen on the other side. Or at least that's what we'll assume's going on here...



DAMN...
DON'T
TELL
ME I'VE
LOST
HIM!



HMPH...
EASY FOR
YOU TO
SAY...



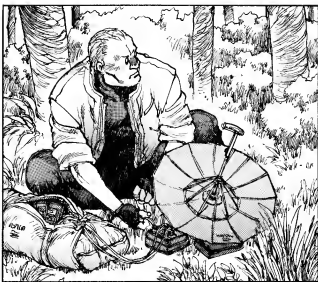
OH, YEAH...
AND AFTER
ACTIVATING THE
GOLF-COURSE
SPRINKLERS,
DON'T FORGET
TO START
JAMMING THE
AIRWAVES...



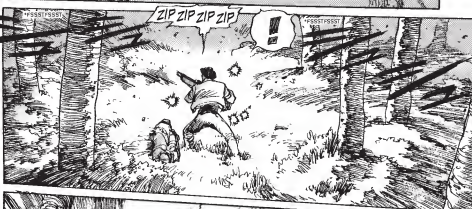
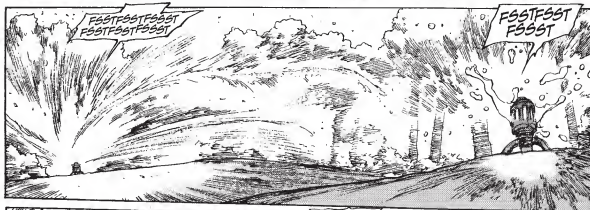
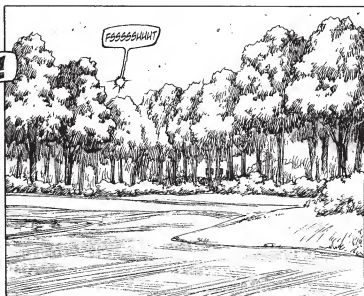
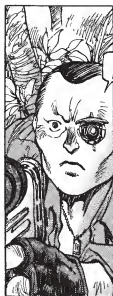
WHEN I GIVE
THE SIGNAL, CALL
A PUBLIC PHONE.
HIS EQUIPMENT'LL
TRY TO SEARCH
FOR THE SIGNAL,
BUT HE'LL GIVE
OFF A SIGNAL TO
DO SO, AND I'LL
TRY TO LOCK
ONTO IT...

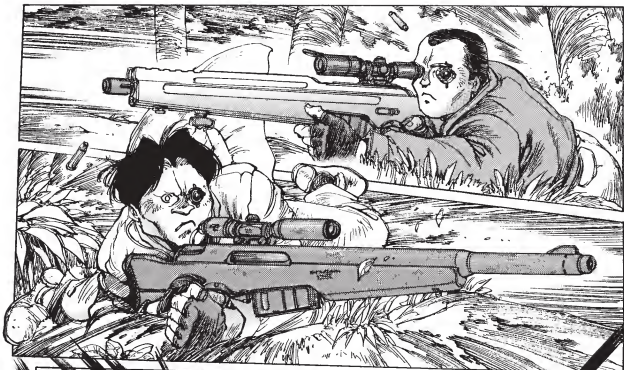
HMPH... THAT
DOESN'T GIVE
ME MUCH
CHOICE...
WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO TAKE
CARE OF HIM
HERE...

Batau's shoulder bike is electric, so it's a little heavy, but it's quiet and hard to detect. Of course, Batau's a cyborg, so he presumably could just run around the course, but the sound of all the weapons jostling around in his bag might give away his whereabouts to Yuen...



With all apologies to readers who are gear freaks, because of the special situation Yuen's not using a regular camouflage or Ghillie suit. Normally, the surface of his rifle would also have some sort of optical camouflage applied, that could be changed as needed, but I've left that out, too. In the fifth panel on the page, the movement of the air would normally be converted into a specific color range and displayed as a 3-D image, but this is a monochrome manga, so I beg your forgiveness... The mid-section of the image is distorted because Saito's "eagle eye" function has enlarged it.







DAMN... WITH A LITTLE BREEZE LIKE THIS, I SHOULD'VE DRILLED HIM THROUGH THE FOREHEAD, WITH AN ERROR OF ONLY FIVE MILLIMETERS!

YOU MEAN I DIDN'T KILL YUEN?

UNGH...



SAITO! YOU ALIVE? I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND I HEARD...



I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG, BUT HE WAS MERGING HIS DATA INTO THE SATELLITE'S...

ZZ

AH, NOW I KNOW WHY WE COULDN'T IDENTIFY THE SATELLITE HE WAS USING!



THE CHIEF'S TALKING WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RIGHT NOW... WE JUST HAD CONTACT FROM QWER... YOU WANT TO BE PATCHED IN TO HER?

YEAH, PLEASE...



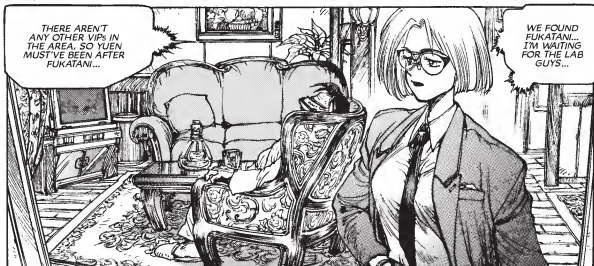
BATOU TO HEAD-QUARTERS... WHERE'S THE OLD MAN?



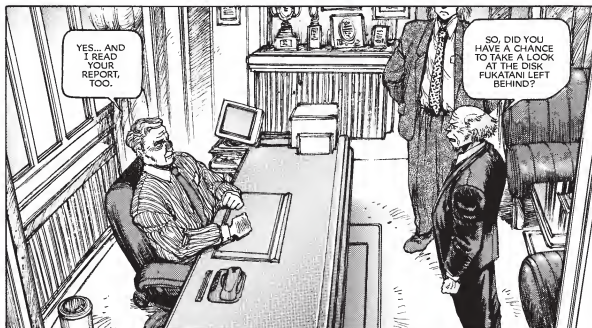
AND NOW WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO YUEN WAS GUNNING FOR...

ZZ

YOU GUYS WERE BOTH SHOOTING WITH THE WRONG DATA...



↳ Batou doesn't want to move Yuen and cause him to bleed to death, so he's stanced the wound and is waiting for help to arrive...



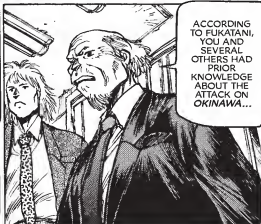
YES... AND
I READ
YOUR
REPORT,
TOO.

SO, DID YOU
HAVE A CHANCE
TO TAKE A LOOK
AT THE DISK
FUKATANI LEFT
BEHIND?

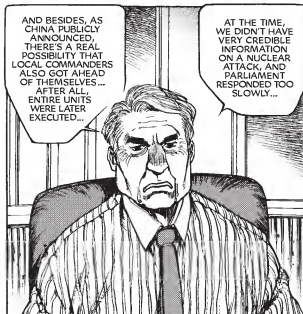


I FEEL SOME
PERSONAL
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ALL THIS,
BUT IT CAN'T GO
PUBLIC, BECAUSE
IT WOULDN'T
BE IN THE
NATIONAL
INTEREST...

LISTEN, IF THIS
GOES PUBLIC,
WE'LL HAVE
TO WITHDRAW
OUR AGENTS
WHO'VE
INFILTRATED
DEEP INTO THE
CHINESE
SYSTEM ...



ACCORDING
TO FUKATANI,
YOU AND
SEVERAL
OTHERS HAD
PRIOR
KNOWLEDGE
ABOUT THE
ATTACK ON
OKINAWA...



AND BESIDES, AS
CHINA PUBLICLY
ANNOUNCED,
THERE'S A REAL
POSSIBILITY THAT
LOCAL COMMANDERS
ALSO GOT AHEAD
OF THEMSELVES...
AFTER ALL,
ENTIRE UNITS
WERE LATER
EXECUTED...

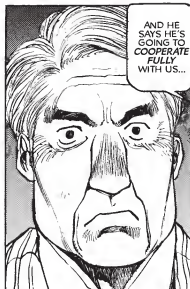
AT THE TIME,
WE DIDN'T HAVE
VERY CREDIBLE
INFORMATION
ON A NUCLEAR
ATTACK, AND
PARLIAMENT
RESPONDED TOO
SLOWLY...



IF IT WOULD
HELP MINIMIZE
THE TOTAL
DAMAGE, THE
ANSWER'S
NO...



YOU MEAN
YOU DON'T
CARE IF
INNOCENT
CITIZENS
DIE
RIGHT...?



AND HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH US...



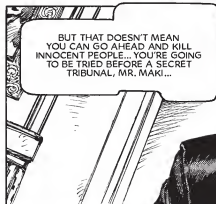
WELL, YOU WERE SO AFRAID OF HAVING EVERYTHING UNCOVERED THAT YOU SENT IN YUEN AS AN ASSASSIN... BUT GUESS WHAT...? ONE AGENT RECORDED ALL YOUR CONVERSATIONS...



YOU REALLY THINK I'D GIVE AKANABE TOP PRIORITY AND ISSUE AN ORDER TO ASSASSINATE SOMEONE?



YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THE HAZARUGI INCIDENT'S ALSO A CASE OF YOUR PEOPLE RUNNING AMOK?



BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE... YOU'RE GOING TO BE TRIED BEFORE A SECRET TRIBUNAL, MR. MAKI...



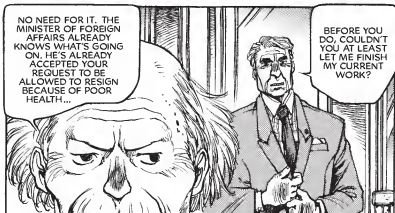
YOU MAY BE RIGHT... MAYBE WE **SHOULDN'T** MAKE FUKATANI'S DISK PUBLIC...



TAKE HIM AWAY...



I KNOW, AND I'M PREPARED FOR IT.



NO NEED FOR IT. THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALREADY KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON. HE'S ALREADY ACCEPTED YOUR REQUEST TO BE ALLOWED TO RESIGN BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH...

BEFORE YOU DO, COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME FINISH MY CURRENT WORK?



